

# PLUCK AND LUCK

COMPLETE STORIES OF ADVENTURE.

FRANK TOUSEY, PUBLISHER, 168 WEST 23D STREET, NEW YORK.

No. 988.

*W. J. W. Stone* NEW YORK, MAY 9, 1917.

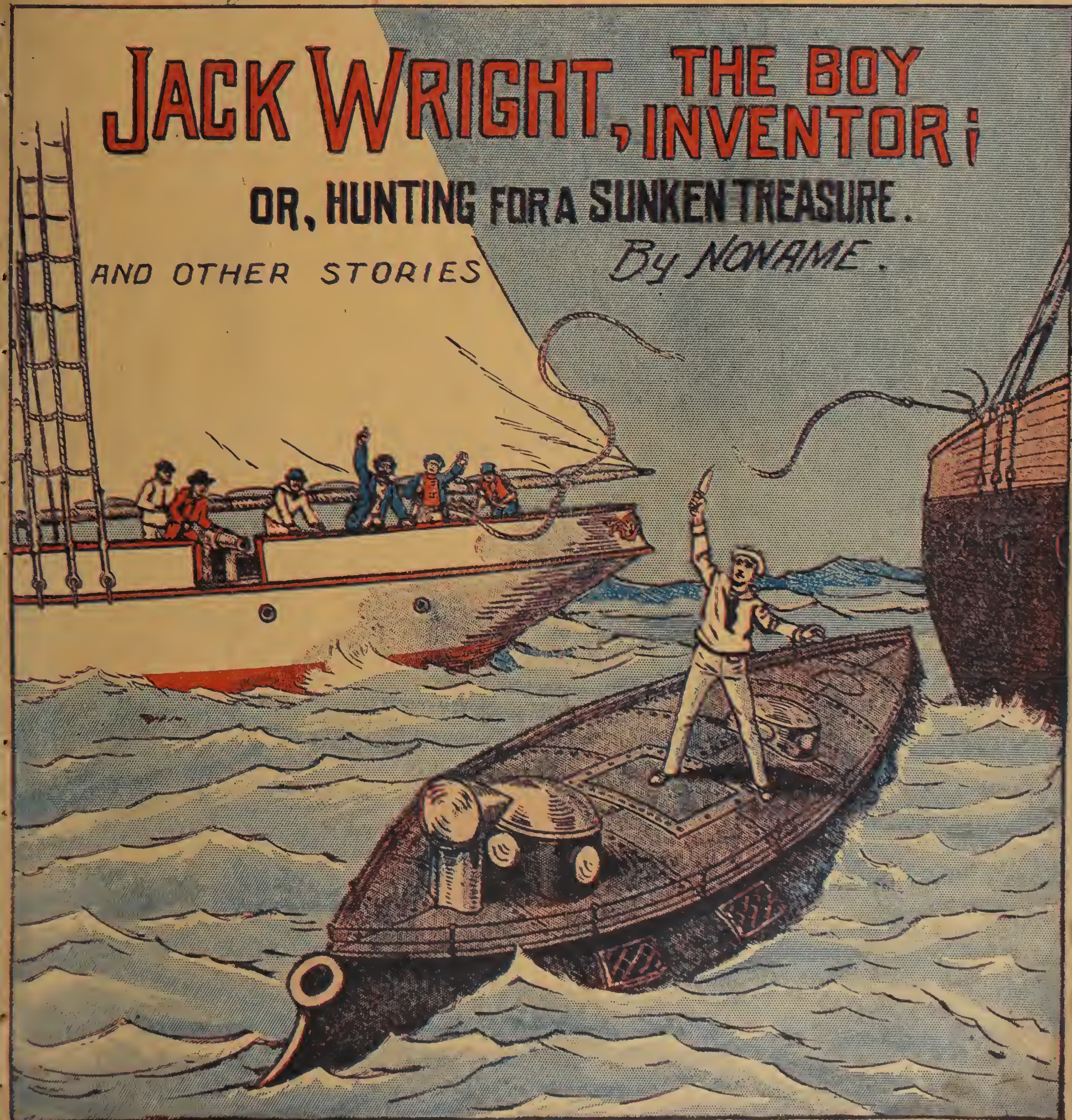
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## JACK WRIGHT, THE BOY INVENTOR;

OR, HUNTING FOR A SUNKEN TREASURE.

AND OTHER STORIES

By *NO NAME*.



The other vessel sailed up close to the boat in tow and the crew flung over a grapnel line. No sooner was it fast, however, when Jack cast off the towline and dashed the Sea Spider between the ships, cut the grapnel hawser, and circled around the treasure boat.





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## STORIES OF ADVENTURE

Issued Weekly—By Subscription \$3.00 per year. Entered at the New York, N. Y., Post Office as Second Class Matter by Harry E. Wolff, Publisher, 166 West 23d Street, New York.

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NEW YORK, MAY 9, 1917.

Price 6 Cents.

# JACK WRIGHT, THE BOY INVENTOR

*This is the first Jack Wright story*

## HUNTING FOR A SUNKEN TREASURE

By "NONAME"

### CHAPTER I.

#### THE THREE ADVENTURERS.

The scene opens on May 7th, 188—, in the fisher village of Wrightstown, at the head of a small bay on the Atlantic seacoast.

It consisted of a number of pretty, vine-clad cottages, scattered among which were numerous seine nets, oars, ropes and sails, while offshore there rolled at anchor a flotilla of fishing smacks.

On the bank of a creek that ran in from the bay stood a pretty house, in a neat plot of ground, having a large workshop down at the end of the garden at the creek side.

It had been owned and occupied by a widower with one son, called Mad Bill Wright, after which the village was named.

He had been a sailor, but, inheriting a fortune, he retired from the sea, and began to invent, by the aid of his son, a submarine boat with which he intended to explore the bottom of the ocean in search of a fabulous treasure, the location of which he professed to know.

Every one of the inhabitants had set him down for a madman, but he paid no heed to his neighbor's sneers, and finished the model which he had been working on for several years.

Unfortunately, poor Bill Wright had no sooner completed his model and seen it work successfully when he became sick, and died before he could consummate his cherished project.

His son Jack thus came into possession of the model and his father's cash, an ancient parchment with Spanish writing upon it, and a dying request of his father to build a boat after the plan of the model, and go in search of the treasure.

Jack was all alone in the world now, a sturdy boy of seventeen, with a fine figure, flashing black eyes, and a stock of courage, ambition, and inventive power that were marvelous.

On the day when our story opens he left the cottage in care of a faithful old housekeeper and went through the village toward the sea shore, when he was accosted by a tall, portly man in a high silk hat and handsome clothes.

He was a wealthy gentleman who controlled all the fishing industries of the village and lived in a large, handsome mansion in the back of the village.

"Hello, Jack!" said he. "Where are you going?"

The boy started, glanced around at the man, and then paused and frowned at him, for he was one of the foremost men to ridicule his father's invention.

Jack accordingly disliked him most cordially.

"Oh, is that you, Mr. Middleton?" asked the boy.

"I hear that your maniac father has died."

"Yes, my father is dead, sir," coldly replied the boy inventor.

"Poor fool! It's just as well he died. But he was a harmless lunatic, and only wasted his own money on his crack-brained scheme," patronizingly said the rich man.

"Pardon me, Mr. Middleton," hotly retorted the boy, his

dark eyes flashing fire, "but my father was as sane as you, and knew enough to mind his own business."

"There—there! What a spitfire you are, 'pon my word. Don't get excited. Did he leave you anything besides the model of his impossible boat upon which to exist?"

"He left me money enough to finish the work he began," replied the boy shortly.

"What! Do you mean to say you intend to throw away good money upon such a mad scheme as that?"

"Ten thousand dollars, if necessary."

"You are as crazy as your father was."

"I will make you change your opinion of us before I am done," replied Jack angrily.

"I doubt it," blandly said Mr. Middleton, stroking his gray beard, and sharply eyeing the boy. "At any rate, if you should ever make anything of the boat I'll give you a chance to test it, and at the same time make a thousand dollars."

"You will—how?" demanded Jack interestedly.

"Why, don't you remember my ship, the Happy Fan?"

"The one that was wrecked on the Devil's Jaws rocks?"

"Yes—out in the bay yonder."

"Well?"

"She lies so deep and in such awful currents that no diver can reach her. However, if your boat could do all that your father claimed for it, I'm sure you ought to be able to get down to the bark, and rescue a box of valuable papers for me from the captain's cabin."

"You will pay me a thousand dollars for the box?"

"I will. The papers are worth ten times as much to me."

"Mr. Middleton, I shall get those papers for you."

A sarcastic laugh burst from the man's lips.

He did not believe Jack could do as he claimed.

The young inventor felt chagrined.

But just as he was about to say what he thought of the gentleman's doubt about the matter he heard a chorus of shouts down a side street at the railroad depot, and glancing in the direction of the sounds he beheld a crowd of men and boys in fishermen's costumes.

They were surrounding a rather curious looking man, and while some were teasing and tantalizing him unmercifully, others were pelting him with missiles, and several were amusing themselves by throwing him down by pulling from under him a wooden leg he wore.

The man was apparently about forty years of age, attired in the full rig of a man-of-war's marine.

He was wildly expostulating with his tormentors, but they laughed and jeered at him, and continued their mean, cruel pranks, paying no attention to his entreaties.

A look of anger crossed Jack's face.

"Cowardly hounds!" he muttered. "I'll lend the old sailor a hand, and teach them to leave him alone!"

He paid no further attention to Mr. Middleton, but ran toward the crowd, and ranged up to the old sailor.

"Shiver me, lads," the old sailor was crying, as he wiped the dirt from his face; "this ain't fair, nohow! I'd fight any two craft in ther fleet o' yer, but dash my top-lights if so be as I kin broach up ag'in a hull flotilla."

"What's the matter?" Jack asked of him.



The old sailor glanced at Jack with one eye, for the other one was made of glass, and after a keen survey, he said:

"Lord, I just hove in this port under full sail from ther train from New York, an' that 'ere unmannerly gang o' lubbers began firin' a broadside at me the moment I anchored. An' as soon's I returned the fire, they bore down on me fore an' aft, an' they've near stove me in from bow ter starn."

Jack saw that the funny look of the old sailor had aroused the mischief in the crowd, and he turned to them, and holding up his hand, he shouted:

"I want you to let this old man be, or I'll lend him a hand myself. You ought to be ashamed; he is a cripple."

"You mind your own business!" yelled one of the men.

"Go for the madman's crazy son!" shouted another.

And with a whiz another shower of missiles flew toward both the boy and the old sailor, bombarding them like rain.

Jack became exasperated, for he saw that their assailants were composed of the worst people in the village.

"Stop!" he shouted. "It will be the worse for you if you don't."

A jeering yell was their response, and another volley of missiles came flying at Jack and his companion.

The boy's patience gave out, and he ran straight into the midst of the crowd and reached out for them.

A startling scene followed.

Every one with whom the boy's hand came in contact fell, as if he had delivered them the most powerful blows, yelling that they were killed, and falling as if struck by lightning.

Swiftly the boy went among them, and those who did not come in contact with him fled at full speed, terrified by witnessing the terrific power Jack seemed to wield.

The ones he floored scrambled to their feet and ran away, horrified at the very sight of the young avenger, and utterly unable to comprehend what an appalling force he possessed.

"He's a devil!" gasped one.

"His hands felt like knives cuttin' me!" said another.

And within a few moments the crowd had dispersed, and Jack smilingly returned to the old sailor, who was looking at him in amazement with his solitary eye.

"They're gone now," said the boy cheerfully, "and I guess I have given them a lesson they won't forget very soon."

"Dash me!" gasped the old sailor, gaping at Jack, "what sort o' craft are you, anyway, lad? It looked as if yer flippers wuz thunderbolts, ther way yer floundered them ere ugly pirates."

Jack laughed quietly, and held up his hands.

They were now covered with rubber gloves, and in each one he held the poles of a powerful electric battery that he carried concealed in his pocket, and said:

"I'll explain. I simply shocked them with electricity. The battery I carry is small enough to put in my pocket, but it is powerful enough to knock a man down, as I have prepared it after an invention of my own."

"Oh," said the old sailor, with a nod, "I see."

But although the matter seemed to be easily understood by him, he really did not understand much about it at all.

"Well, as your tormentors are gone, you had better go where you are bound for before they return."

"Aye, now, but I ain't got no bearin's for my port."

"Where do you want to go to?"

"Bill Wright's."

"Why, that is my father."

"Good law, ye don't tell me, lad!" gasped the ancient mariner, as he gripped Jack's hand. "An' I'm glad to know ye."

He was grateful to the boy, and shook his hand heartily.

"Are you Timothy Topstay, my father's old messmate, when he was aboard the U. S. frigate Wabash?"

"Sure guns, lad," said the old sailor, beamingly, as he stumped along the street with Jack. "I'm ther old hulk as wuz a-comin' ter sling my hammock in yer father's cabin fer a while. Ye see, Sailor's Snug Harbor wuz nice enough fer any ole feller wot got his weather eye shot out, an' his walkin' tackle blowed off in ther war, aboard the Wabash, but this trip would be a change o' quarters an' make sailin' ter Davy Jones' locker easier fer me."

He wiped a tear from his eye, and his voice grew choked and hoarse, for the poor cripple felt as if his cruise of usefulness in this life was about over forever.

Jack felt sorry for him from the bottom of his heart.

"I have often heard my poor father speak of you, Tim," said the boy, "but he will not be at home now to welcome you."

"Why, lad, has my dear old friend Bill gone away——"

"He is dead."

The old sailor started violently.

He shot a startled glance at the boy, and paused.

"Dead!" he faltered, in pained tones.

Jack gave him an account of the event, and he looked sad and solemn, and wanted to turn back to go home again to Snug Harbor, but Jack said:

"No, no! You must come home with me, Tim, and I will show you the model of my father's submarine vessel, and see what you think of it."

"Aye, now, lad," replied Tim gladly, "I'd like ter clap my eyes on it, 'cause it's all as is left o' my poor ole messmate, an', 'sides that, these ole timbers ain't so sprung in ther garboards yet but what anythin' what's got ter do wi' ships is ther most interestin' thing there is in ther Lor' blessed world."

The boy then escorted his new friend homeward.

Just as they were about to turn the corner into the street that led to Jack's cottage, a young individual rushed around the corner toward them, and collided with the old sailor with such force that they both fell to the ground.

Up into the air flew a carpet bag carried by the stranger, and his old green umbrella shot over a fence, while he himself described a curve upon the back of his neck, and turning a somersault, he landed on his hands and knees.

Tim lay stranded upon the broad of his back, with his wooden leg stuck up in the air, and the stranger's cap on top of it.

"Och! Donnerwetter! Vot's der matter?" panted the stranger, as his round blue eyes glared out of his round fat face at the sailor, and his exceedingly fat stomach brushed the ground. "Vy you didn't got oudt of mine vay alretty?"

The sailor gave a grunt, sat up, and returned the stranger's glare.

He was a Dutch immigrant to all appearances, no more than twenty years of age, and attired in a suit of brown homespun garments, with a belt around his waist that made his coat stick out like a ballet dancer's dress, while his short pants scarcely reached his ankles, and amply displayed a pair of enormous feet encased in hobnailed brogans.

He bounced upon his feet, and Jack saw that he was a very short, pudgy little fellow of a hot-headed temperament, and as the tall, thin, old sailor arose, too, he towered over the little Dutchman by a height of several feet.

"Avast, thar," said Tim, "it was you as ran afoul me."

"Yah, I didn't vonct," sputtered the fat boy pugnaciously, "und if I didn't alreatty, vot's der medder mit you, maybe, hey?"

He danced up to Tim with a scowl, and shook his fist up at the grinning sailor as if he meant to fight him.

"Come, come," said Jack, with a laugh. "It's all an accident. Shake hands; neither of you could help it."

"Aye, now, so it was," assented Tim, extending his hand.

"Vell," said the Dutch boy, shaking the proffered hand, as his good humor was restored, "maybe I don't petter fight mit you alretty, 'cause I might hurt mineself."

"What brought you around the corner in such a hurry?" asked Jack, picking up the boy's cap and handing it to him.

"Some beobles vot is a growd came along," explained the boy, "und dey sed somedings to me vot I don't like, some-dimes. I pegged vun of dem in de snoot mit a stone und dey all vended for me vot made me skoodid."

"A gang of men and boys?" questioned Jack.

"Yah—dot is it."

"Then you are a stranger here?"

"For shure I vhas, maybe. I don'd got some money, und I vant to vank by some city vere I got me a shob mit dot electricity pisness—dot is mine drade."

"Oh, you are an electrician?" eagerly asked Jack.

"Dot is so."

"Would you like to work for me?"

"I vould vork anywhere for mine lifin'."

"Then you are just the fellow for me," said Jack eagerly. "I am going to construct an electric boat for going under the water, and I need just such a person as you are to assist me. Where do you live?"

"I don'd got me some home alretty," replied the Dutch boy, "cause I just come from dot Boston."

"You can live with me, then, Mr.—Mr.—"

"Fritz Schneider," supplemented the boy, with a nod. "Dot vill do. I lief mit your house, und dot seddles id vonct."

"You will see what there is to be done soon, then," said



Jack, "and as we are going there now, you may as well come along, Fritz."

"Yah, but I don't want to go dat way," said the young Dutchman, holding back, as Jack was going to turn the corner."

"Why not?" queried the young inventor, in surprise.

"Dem mens down dot street."

"No, they are gone now," said Jack, looking around the corner.

"Och, but dey vhas down to dot leedle house mit de pig parn by de back. I vhas heard dem say dot dey go dere yust for spite, und smash up a boat vot some veller made who yust licked dem by de street."

Jack gave a start and glanced at Tim.

A fearful fit of alarm took possession of him.

It was evident by the Dutch boy's declaration that the ruffians from whom Jack had rescued Tim were going to go to the inventor's house and break into the workshop and destroy the model of the under-water vessel.

A chill of dismay passed over Jack, and he cast a quick, apprehensive glance in the direction of his home.

To his alarm, he saw his late enemies going into the grounds in a body, and proceeding toward the workshop.

"Fritz has told the truth!" he gasped.

"Lord save us!" muttered the old sailor, aghast.

"Vot? Is dot your house?" queried the surprised Fritz.

"Yes. Their spite will ruin the work of years, and forever destroy my hope of carrying out my dead father's wishes."

The sad, pathetic tones of the despairing boy struck a chill to the hearts of his two listeners, won their sympathy, and aroused their anger at the miscreants.

"Vy you don't stop dem, den?" quickly asked Fritz.

"Aye," chimed in Tim savagely. "An', by gosh, we'll help you, lad."

"I will!" exclaimed Jack, his eyes burning and his cheeks flashing with excitement. "Perhaps we may arrive there in time yet. They have got to break the lock to get in the door. Come on, and we will try to save it."

And so saying, the desperate young inventor dashed away, followed by his two companions, and rushed through the street at full speed to prevent the mob from destroying the model in their petty malice against him.

It was not a great distance they had to cover, yet so suspenseful was the moment that it seemed ages to Jack ere he reached the yard and dashed through the gate.

He heard his enemies showering blow after blow upon the door of the workshop, and the lock yielded.

Open crashed the door a moment later, and into the workshop rushed the crowd.

Jack's heart almost ceased beating, so excited was he.

"Will I arrive in time? Oh, heavens, will I arrive in time?" he gasped in choking tones, as he sped along.

## CHAPTER II.

### A STRANGE OLD MANUSCRIPT.

Jack and his two friends dashed into the workshop, and found the big room filled with men.

On a stand in the middle of the room rested the ten-foot model of a submarine boat, and several of the gang had armed themselves with axes, crowbars and other utensils, with which they were about to demolish it.

Jack pulled a pistol from his pocket, and aiming it at the men, he shouted in stern tones:

"Hold, there! The first man who touches it will die!"

Hastily the men glanced around at the boy standing in the doorway, and they were startled to see that he was aiming a revolver at them.

Instantly they recoiled from the model.

Jack was as cool as ice, but Tim and Fritz, who stood beside him, were so much excited they wanted to fight right away.

"Run 'em down, an' scuttle 'em!" roared the old sailor, brandishing a spade he had picked up in the garden.

"Hit dem by der het!" raved Fritz, picking up a cobble stone.

"Don't fire! Don't shoot!" whined one of the attacking party.

A contemptuous look crossed Jack's face, and he exclaimed:

"So you call this revenge for what I did to you?"

"We didn't do nuthin'," said one of the men.

"No, because I arrived in time to prevent you; but you would have spoiled that model to spite me. I'd serve you right by shooting you down like dogs."

At this half menace the men began to climb out of the windows, run out of another door, and try to screen their bodies behind the different objects in the room.

Jack moved away from the door.

"Get out of here!" said he, drawing out his watch and glancing at it. "I give you just two minutes to vacate the premises. Any one who remains after that gets shot."

Glad of the chance to escape so easily, the foiled rascals fled, and emptied the building in one minute.

In another minute the whole crowd was racing away from the grounds at the top of their speed.

As soon as the last one was gone Jack burst out laughing, and the hearty tones of his voice became so infectious that Fritz and Tim had to laugh too.

"That's the last of them now," said Jack, very much relieved.

"Aye, lad, but why didn't ye blow a hole in their keels?"

"Oughder proke der chaws for dem," said Fritz.

"Had I injured them," said Jack, "they might have come back some time and burned down the workshop."

"Then they'd roast me an' this Dutch lubber," said Tim, grimly; "'cause as long's him an' me swings our hammocks here, we was in this shop, eh, Fritz?"

"Dot is so," assented the emigrant.

"Well, for my account, the greater part of my time will be spent here, too," said Jack, "for to-morrow I begin to commence the construction of my submarine boat."

He showed them a room full of sheets of steel and framework, moldings that were cast at various iron foundries, according to the specifications that he and his father had drawn up, and bringing them into another room, exhibited the strange machinery designed to work the boat.

The shop was fitted up with every tool and device for the construction of the boat, and the model being shown to the two strangers, aroused their admiration and delight over the beauty of its arrangement.

"Dash my figger-head, but it's a marvel!" said Tim, enthusiastically, stamping his wooden peg on the floor and slapping his thigh; "but ha' ye tried the model!"

"Certainly," replied Jack cheerily. "My father and I sent a cat, a rabbit, and a canary down under the creek in it, and they came up alive and acting as if nothing had occurred to them extraordinary. The boat acted any way we designed, and is sure to work right built on a large scale. We can store enough compressed air to last six men two weeks in the reservoirs of the big boat, and the arrangement of the air chambers and water reservoirs is such that the boat can be made to dive to any desired depth and move there horizontally in any direction. Nor can the fiercest tides rend the hull to pieces, so strong is the framework."

The old sailor and Fritz were so much interested in the singular boat that they both wanted to help Jack to build it at once, and averred that they would go with him on its trial trip, if not in search of the sunken treasure.

When the inspection was over they retired to the house, and having had their supper, one of the rooms in the workshop was turned into a bedroom for the sailor and Dutchman, who preferred it to the house, and while the housekeeper was so employed, Jack brought his new-found friends into the parlor.

There he showed them the strange manuscript which had incited his father to invent the boat.

It was a long, narrow piece of parchment, on which was traced some Spanish writing of an ancient style.

Some of it was so faded and blurred that it was impossible to read it; but the main part was easily decipherable, and a fly sheet attached to it contained a translation into English of what the writing said:

"Vere your fader got him dot?" queried Fritz, when he had finished looking over the parchment.

"It is an heirloom, and has been in our family many years," replied the boy. "All of my ancestors were sailors. My father said that one of them procured it from a dying messmate, who was one of the crew of the treasure ship."

"Who was he?" asked Tim.

"Evidently the captain. I'll read it to you."



The others assenting, Jack read aloud the following translation:

"AT SEA IN AN OPEN BOAT.

"In the name of Almighty God, to whom we commend our souls, amen. Fearing momentary death in the stormy seas, I write this in hope that it may survive us to tell the tale of our misfortune. The two galleons, Alpha and Omega, did set sail from Cadiz laden with a rich treasure of one million doubloons, and put out to sea upon the 10th day of March, in the year of our Lord, 1688, and set sail for the coast of Brittany, under my command. The money was designed to pay part of the national debt. Strong seas arose after the third day, and although we did make every effort to overcome the furious winds and waves, we were blown far away from our course into the western coast of Africa. Both ships were locked together by stout cables, but we were half demolished, and well knew that it was hopeless to expect to save them. \* \* \* All hope was gone, for our ships were sinking off an island on the coast, and in despair we have taken to the boats, and seen the galleons sink before our eyes in the storm, with all their treasure. \* \* \* To distinguish the location of the wreckage is difficult in this dead gloom which only breaks when the lightning's forked tongues flash athwart the murky heavens. Yet we catch faint glimpses, as we rise and fall on the waves in our frail boat, of the land from which the wind keeps blowing us. It contained a mountain of great height, which, split in two at the summit, gives it the strange look of the cloven hoof of a cow, and from the cleft emanates fire and smoke. It is due west, seaward, perhaps one league of this strange isle that the ships did founder. I can say no more, for the turbid seas wash over us, but will put this note in a copper cylinder attached to a float and cast it into the sea. Some crew of a passing ship may find it, and if so be God's will, though we may perish on the sea, it may yet be known what has become of us. May Heaven defend us.

"Santa Garcia, Commander."

When Jack finished reading the manuscript he put it away in a drawer, and then said to his companions

"It may seem strange to you that my father pinned his faith on such a meagre account, yet he did. Experts have pronounced this paper genuine, and it is a well-known fact to the Spanish Government that the account was true. Yet strong tides and deep seas prevented different divers who went to save the five millions of dollars from the deep from accomplishing their design."

"Then yer knows whar the islan' is?" queried Tim.

"Yes; it isn't mapped, but I've got charts and diagrams of my father's which explain everything."

"Fife million tollars!" muttered Fritz, fairly astounded.

"A vast fortune," assented Jack, "and if my boat is a success, if you both will venture to go with me on the underwater trip, I'll divide equally all the money we get."

The sailor and Fritz each extended Jack a hand.

"I'll go," said Tim.

"Und me, too," added Fritz.

"Then it's a compact," said Jack.

And thus the tie of friendship between them was sealed

### CHAPTER III.

#### THE SEA SPIDER.

On the following day Jack and his two companions began to work upon the submarine boat, and as all the parts were in the shop ready to be put together, the work went fast.

Mr. Middleton had spread the news among the villagers that Jack was spending ten thousand dollars in the construction of the boat, and every one ridiculed the boy.

They looked upon him as being insane, for every one was as skeptical of the possibility of such a boat being able to navigate as they were doubtful of the existence of the vast treasure which they knew Jack expected to get.

The boy paid no attention to their sneers, but worked on for a month with his two friends, and the boat gradually grew in proportions until it at last assumed its proper shape.

Then the interior was finished and furnished in the most elaborate manner with carpets, furniture, utensils of every description, arms of all kinds, and many singular electric

arrangements of Jack's own invention that were designed for use under water.

At last everything was completed, and the boat was ready for launching, with the name of the Sea Spider in gilt letters in a scroll upon her bow.

It was a singular looking craft, shaped like a cylinder, pointed at both ends, its plates being made of thin but strong steel with riveted joint bands, and everything was galvanized.

It was one hundred feet long, by fourteen in diameter.

There was a knife-like ram at the bow, and a row of barred deadlights at the runs, a trapdoor opening in the bottom on each side, and above them rows of windows protected by steel wire netting; in back of these two side propellers, two more astern, and a long thin rudder, all protected by netting.

The deck was surrounded by a low railing, and a trap in the top gave ingress to the boat; astern there was a projection of the deck with portholes in it, and forward there were three circular windows, the middle one projecting ahead of the others, being used as a pilot house.

They were cross-barred, and furnished with sliding shutters.

Over the pilot house was fastened a powerful searchlight, capable of radiating a glow a mile ahead, while the dead lights were capable of diffusing light all around the boat.

Inside the boat was divided into two floors, and each floor partitioned into five compartments, the bow and stern, lower and upper ones being filled with compressed air, controlled by force pumps.

The second upper room was the pilot house, the room in back a general cabin for dining, cooking and sleeping, and the room in back of it a storeroom for diving armor, weapons, utensils and food.

The second room in the hold was for electric batteries with a dynamo in it to generate electricity, the next room was a large, empty compartment designed to be filled with water to sink the boat, and aft of it was the engine room for working the propellers.

On the day the boat was finished Jack demolished the model, and received an applied patent upon the invention from Washington by mail.

He had progressed famously with Fritz and Tim, for the three grew to like each other more and more.

The old sailor developed his true character after a while, and proved to be a tremendous liar, his fertile imagination creating some of the wildest yarns ever spun by a seaman.

Fritz, on the other hand, was a sober, solemn fellow, with a great love for music, of a quick temper, and always combative.

He and the sailor got along well, but they were constantly chaffing each other, and planning all kinds of tricks to play upon one another.

Jack was in the village post-office when he got his patent papers, and was eagerly reading them over when Mr. Middleton approached him.

"Ah, Wright," said he, "I heard that you finished your marvel."

"Yes," quietly replied the boy, "and I am almost ready to go down under the bay to secure the papers you want from the wreck of the Happy Fan."

"Do you mean to say you intend to run the risk in such a concern as you have constructed?" incredulously asked the man.

"Of course I do. On Monday morning I will launch my boat and float it down the creek into the bay. You can inform the whole village, if you like, that they can witness the exhibition. I want to prove that my boat will work."

Mr. Middleton's face became wreathed in a sarcastic smile, and he shrugged his shoulders, and said:

"We shall all be on hand to see you make a fool of yourself by deliberately committing suicide, Jack Wright."

Jack nodded.

"Very well," was all he said, and he walked away.

Mr. Middleton kept his word, for long before the fall of night every man, woman and child in Wrightstown knew that the boy was going to test his boat.

A delegation of the best citizens, headed by the minister, called upon the boy that night to make an effort to dissuade him from what they considered certain death.

Jack received them politely, but firmly refused to heed any of their arguments, and they sorrowfully took their departure, predicting a violent death for him.

The next day was Sunday.



Jack and his two friends rested.

On the following day they began to knock out the end of the workshop, for there was no other means of getting the Sea Spider into the water, and when this was done she slid from the ways and floated in the creek like a cork.

Jack and his friends boarded her, examined her all through, and finding that she was as tight as a bottle, the boy entered the pretty pilot house.

In front of the wheel there was a compass and other instruments for determining speed, depth, grade, etc., and a small square switchboard with levers upon it, by means of which all the electrical apparatus was controlled.

He turned one of the levers, setting the dynamo in motion, and when a stock of electricity was generated, he stopped it.

Then he grasped the wheel, and said:

"Fritz, go down below and see if the machinery acts right."

"Yah," replied the boy, and he opened a trap in the floor, and disappeared down in the battery room."

"Tim, keep a lookout."

"Aye, aye, sir," replied the old sailor, touching his forelock.

Jack then turned a lever, and set the machinery in motion.

It was perfectly noiseless.

The Sea Spider's propellers began to revolve, and she ran ahead, half submerged, on the surface of the creek.

Jack tried the tiller, and found that she answered it in half her length; then he increased her speed until she ran at the rate of twenty miles an hour; then he stopped her, and she came to a sudden pause as if she had hit a rock.

"She is perfect thus far," remarked the boy delightedly.

"Aye, aye, lad, but ther principal trial has yet to come."

"You mean going under water?"

"To be sure."

"Oh, have no fear. She will stand the test."

"I hopes as she will, 'cause thar'll be a big crowd to see her."

"The jeers of the crowd would be much worse than the loss of the nine thousand dollars I spent in building her," said Jack.

"As much as that, lad?"

"Yes. I have only got one thousand dollars left."

He then shouted down a speaking tube:

"How does the machinery work, Fritz?"

"Dot vhas all righd," came the Dutch boy's cheerful reply.

He was such an expert that Jack knew he could depend upon him in every particular, so he was satisfied.

The whole morning was spent at trying the boat in every way upon the surface, and when they brought it back to the shop and anchored it Jack was delighted.

"If she behaves as well under water as she did upon the surface," he remarked, as they went to dinner, "I will be thoroughly satisfied, and shall soon start off on my trip in search of the sunken treasure."

"Und I dink me dot I go mit you on dot trip," said Fritz.

"An' me, too," added Tim.

"Nothing would please me better," was Jack's answer.

It must be admitted, however, that when the time came for them to start for the bay, they all felt somewhat nervous, courageous as the trio were in the face of most any danger, for the result of the trial would be either an awful failure or a grand triumph for them before the skeptical villagers.

There was no shirking it, however, so they boarded the Sea Spider promptly at three o'clock, and started her.

Down the creek she glided swiftly between the verdant banks, and as she shot out into the bay a thrill passed over Jack, when he saw that the whole village had turned out to witness the performance of the boat.

The shore was black with people, the pier was filled with them, and hundreds of rowboats were gliding over the water filled with strangers who had come from a distance to witness the descent of the strange boat.

A tremendous shout greeted the appearance of the Sea Spider, and Jack proudly sent her spinning about the bay to show off her speed, and the other evolutions she was capable of performing.

As the boat glided up to the dock, upon the end of which stood Mr. Middleton surrounded by a party of city friends whom he had invited up to witness the performance, Jack left the wheel in Tim's hands, opened a door in the pilot house, and stepping out on deck he was greeted with a cheer.

"Mr. Middleton," said he, "are you satisfied thus far that my boat is a wonder in her movements upon the surface?"

"She certainly is extraordinary in her speed and the promptness with which she acts," replied the gentleman, "but as yet you have not shown us what she can do under water."

"I shall do so in a few minutes. She will act the same way under water as she did on the surface."

Mr. Middleton held up a check.

"I've got an order here for one thousand dollars made out in your name on my bank," said he, "if you go down to the wreck of the Happy Fan and bring me the tin box that stands in a locker in the captain's cabin astern."

"You shall have the box."

As Jack said this he returned to the pilot house, and closing the door after him, he sent the boat over to the spot where Mr. Middleton's vessel was sunk.

There he brought it to a pause.

As the ship owner had said, this spot was the deepest and most dangerous in the bay.

As soon as the Sea Spider stopped, Jack called his two friends together, and got three diving costumes from the store room, gave them instructions how to act, and they then put on the rubber suits.

Over these they donned galvanized suits of mail to resist the water pressure, the numerous joints giving them perfect freedom of motion.

There were knapsack-shaped reservoirs attached to the backs of the helmets of copper holding thirty-two cubic feet of air, enough to last a man an hour or more, and as soon as they were attached with thumb-screws, weights were adjusted to keep the divers from ascending to the water's surface.

There was also a small, powerful electric lamp attached to the tops of the helmets, with a battery wire attached to a machine fastened on top of the air reservoirs, and belts around their waists, in which were thrust electric knives and revolvers.

As everything was then in readiness, Jack turned one of the levers which put the air pumps in motion.

They compressed the air from the lower reservoirs fore and aft into the reservoirs above them, which left the "rst, third and fifth lower rooms empty of everything.

Tubes were opened by pulling around another lever on the switchboard, and the sea water rushed into the empty chambers, the amount graded exactly as Jack desired by the lever.

Instantly the bow of the boat sank and dragged the rest of it under.

Within a moment the Sea Spider vanished from the sight of the spectators, and a sudden gloom filled the interior of the boat with a pale green color; but Jack dispelled it by turning a current of electricity on the myriad of arc-lamps on the walls and ceilings.

At the same time he started the searchlight.

A tremendous glare of light shot from the reflector, pierced the water a long distance ahead, and lit it up as if by day.

Water began to leak in at several unguarded and overlooked crevices, and a strangely oppressive feeling took possession of the divers such as they never felt before.

Despite the fact that automatic injectors kept the rooms supplied with air from the reservoirs, and valves discharged in bubbles in the water the vitiated air, it seemed for a moment as if the three adventurers would perish.

All the blood in their veins seemed to suddenly rush up to their heads and burst from their eyes, ears, noses, and mouths; their lungs acted spasmodically, and their senses became bewildered, their vision dim, and their hearing difficult.

In his eagerness, Jack had descended too rapidly.

He should have gone down gradually to accustom them to the change of pressure, and, seeing his error, he diminished the influx of water, and they then became more accustomed to the situation.

The glass visors of their helmets were not closed yet, as they had no use for the diving suits until they were at the bottom and ready to leave the Sea Spider by one of the traps in the bottom.

Fritz was terrified, and old Tim looked scared.

It was impossible to see how Jack felt, as his face was as immobile as a Chinaman's, never betraying his emotions.

"Shdop!" yelled the Dutch boy in tones of terror. "I vant to go up by de dop! Shdop a leedle. Ve vhas all det men! Led me got ub, I dolt you!"

"Keelhaul me, lad," gasped Tim, "I ain't a-skeered o'."



facin' ther wust man afloat, but this are too strong fer my blood."

"Don't alarm yourselves," coolly replied Jack. "You will soon get used to it. I am going down deeper still."

"No, no!" roared Fritz, with chattering teeth. "Yust looker dem fishes! Shiminetty, dot poat vill pust, und plow us all to der tuyfel. Vat you tink—I'm a mermaid, vonet?"

Jack made no reply, but kept his glance fixed upon the indicators, as he gradually continued the descent, and saw by the quivering of one of the needles that they were entering a terrific current that was straining and wrenching the boat.

The Sea Spider shook and trembled, striving to turn to the right, then wrenched around to the left, but it kept steadily descending until an indicator announced a depth of four atmospheres, or one hundred feet.

No bottom was reached yet, but the boat went down further, and Jack glanced at the electric atomizer.

It was a spraying machine to neutralize the carbonic acid thrown off in breathing the confined air, a mixture of quicklime and potash mixed with water, being constantly sprayed in the air to purify it and assist respiration.

The deeper they went the darker the water became, but the glare of the electric light revealed a strange sight.

Thousands of familiar and strange-looking fishes were attracted toward the boat by the lights, and waving weeds and long floating aquatic plants of strange shape floated about them.

Creatures of horrible appearance, that never rose to the surface, strove to dart at the inmates of the boat, but were stopped by the thick glass windows; under-water forests of singular trees, with constantly waving arms, were broken through in the descent, while the phosphorescent gleam and flash of darting objects lent a starry glimmer to the water strange to behold.

Life under the sea was a strange sight to mankind.

An ecstatic thrill passed over Jack.

The dream of his lifetime was realized at last.

"Poor father!" he muttered. "He would have given all he owned to have witnessed this sight. But he is dead, and it was reserved for me to carry out his wishes!"

Off to the right an immense dark object began to appear like some grim demon reaching up its ragged arms to grasp them, and the boy saw that the shell of the boat was going straight toward the main body of it directly below them.

"The Devil's Jaws rocks!" he muttered, as he grasped a lever and turned the glare of the searchlight upon the mass.

He had just time to start the propellers and send the boat ahead, when the boat grazed the edge of the mass. It was this rock that wrecked the Happy Fan.

The boat scratched and grated, bumped a projection, and gave its inmates such a shock that Fritz and Tim fell down.

The boat kept going at an angle, and Jack kept his eyes wide open, to detect any errors he had made in the construction that might need repair.

Suddenly he observed a ship's mast on the left-hand side, and a moment later the hull appeared.

By this he knew that he was nearing the bottom, and he therefore brought the boat to a pause, and let it sink straight.

They scarcely felt it land on the sandy bottom, and no longer felt the fierce force of the tide, for they had left it above them.

But no sooner had it touched the bottom, when down came a dislodged rock from the heap that grazed and struck the roof of the dining chamber with such a crash that a hole was stove in.

Jack had just noticed that the name on the wreck was that of the Happy Fan when the accident occurred.

The three were hurled to the floor by the awful shock, and when they arose they saw torrents of water pouring into the boat, filling it up.

There was no time to screw the visors of their helmets shut, and Jack shouted to his terrified companions:

"The boat is filling! There's no salvation except to reach the surface of the water, 175 feet above. Look out! Off with weights!"

They were caged in the boat like rats in a trap.

Jack made an effort to start the pumps, to empty the air rooms of the water and raise the boat, but a wall of water struck him ere he could do so, and sent him and his companions spinning.

He succeeded in gaining his feet a moment later.

They were up to their necks in water then, and it still continued to pour in so fast that within a few minutes the entire interior of the Sea Spider was filled up.

## CHAPTER IV.

### ON BOARD OF THE HAPPY FAN.

How Jack and his companions ever reached the surface of the water they never knew, for they were unconscious when they did ascend in the midst of the rowboats dotting the bay.

Soon all the spectators saw the occupants of some of the boats picking them up, and a great cry arose on all sides.

"We expected nothing else," said some, and others shouted:

"Are they dead?"

"What's the matter?"

"Where is the boat?"

Jack and his friends were revived with extreme difficulty, and were taken ashore more dead than alive.

They were half-drowned, squeezed frightfully from the pressure of water they had been in, and their suits were torn.

Yet they lived, and that was saying a great deal.

The villagers brought them home, and a useless search was made for the boat, after which the crowd dispersed.

Fully a week elapsed before our friends were themselves again.

Jack felt crushed and humbled over their defeat before the large crowd who had witnessed the accident.

He was a persevering and determined boy, however, for after he had thought the matter over, he went out to the shop, and there found Tim and Fritz playing cards.

"I am going to recover the boat," he said to them.

"Can't be did," said Tim, shaking his head doubtfully.

"Well, I can try at any rate. I can't stand the humiliation of going through the village and having every one sneering and laughing at me, calling me a fool and a maniac, and all the time jibing me about the boat."

"Oh, it vhas awful!" grunted Fritz.

"I'll go to some wrecking company in New York and spend my last dollar there to have the boat raised. She has got several defects which I saw that must be remedied."

Fritz and Tim tried to persuade him, but he remained firm in his resolve, and said he would do it.

"Aye, now," exclaimed Tim, "yer knows very well as how they couldn't git up ther Happy Fan, so how is they a-goin' ter raise ther Sea Spider, lad, ez she's in ther same depth o' water?"

"My boat isn't so heavy as the ship, nor is she encumbered by sea weed and aquatic plant like Mr. Middleton's boat. Besides, she's got several chambers full of air yet, and if they can grapnel her she would easily come to the top."

"D'ye 'low fer ther high pressure an' tide on her?"

"Of course. There's a weight of seven atmospheres pressing her down, but her natural buoyancy ought to overcome that."

"Atmospheres?" queried Tim, in puzzled tones.

"Every 32 feet down is an atmosphere," replied Jack, in explanatory tones, "and each human being on the surface has a pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch pressing all over his body."

"Den ve hat a puddy goot loat to carry down dere, eh?" asked Fritz.

"Rather," dryly said Jack. "When my father and I calculated the resistance of the boat, we knew that every human being who exposes six thousand inches of space to pressure would, at 32 feet below, have to hold up 90,000 pounds. We went down 175 feet. At that depth we each underwent a pressure of about 495,000 pounds."

"Holy Shiminey!" gasped Fritz, his eyes opening wide.

"You can imagine, therefore," said Jack, with a smile, "that if a human being holds up so much on his small body what must the boat sustain with its one hundred feet of length and fourteen feet diameter. If the metal and braces were not so strong the water would crush the boat like an eggshell."

Jack left Wrightstown on an early train, and was gone all day, and when he came back he told his friend that he had engaged a coast wrecker to raise the Sea Spider and tow it up in the creek.

On the following day a tug came into the harbor with two flatboats, and having anchored over the spot where the Sea Spider went down, they began to grapnel for her.

Two days were thus spent, when finally one of the irons caught the aperture that was broken through the roof, and the submarine boat was pulled to the surface.

There she was, suspended between two flatboats, and the tug pulled them over to the creek, up in which the Sea Spider was beached at high tide.



Jack then paid the wreckers, and they went away.

As soon as the tide ran out the submarine boat was left stranded high and dry, and Jack boarded her.

There was an ugly, jagged opening in the deck, and he opened a trap, and passed down into the pilot-house by means of a flight of stairs into a depth of six feet of water.

He dove down, and reaching the door in the glass turret of the pilot-house, he opened it, and the water ran out of the boat.

He then descended into the hold, and having emptied it he made an examination of the boat all over.

Beyond the hole in the roof she had sustained no damage, for the drenching her inside got did not injure anything.

The tide came up again, and Jack floated his boat up to the workshop, for a crowd of the curious villagers had gathered around intent upon examining the boat, and were passing various remarks of an unpleasant character.

Among them stood Mr. Middleton.

"Quite a serious accident," he remarked, eyeing the hole.

"If it hadn't been for that, we would have succeeded," said Jack.

"Nonsense."

"I'll prove it."

"How?"

"As soon as I repair the boat I'll go down again."

"You must be insane."

"I have confidence in my boat."

"When will you win my money?"

"In one week from to-day."

"Depend that there will be a bigger crowd than before to see it."

"I am satisfied," answered Jack.

"He's a plucky lad," remarked the ship owner as Jack and his boat vanished inside the workshop.

Having ascertained all the defects in the boat, seen what damage was done, Jack and his friends set about to repair it and rectify all errors.

Before the week was over, the Sea Spider was ready, and there was then not a thing the matter with her.

The last man to whom money was owed collected his bill.

"There goes the last of my thousand dollars," said the boy to his friends. "I have spent every cent I had in the world to finish the boat, and now I am penniless."

"Why don't you sell your house and ground?" asked Tim.

"Never. Humble as it is now, there will come a time, on my return from the bottom of the sea, when I will be a millionaire. Then I intend to come back here, and beautify this place so that you would scarcely know it."

"You vhas keep on inventin'?" asked Fritz.

"Forever. It is my forte to invent, and I am going to follow it up in the future. Now, boys, get aboard the boat and we will try her again in the creek. If she operates all right there she will go the same way in the bay."

They boarded the boat, and sent her out into the sunlight and sank her under the creek at its deepest point.

An hour's practise with the boat sufficed to show Jack that his boat was now all right, and he returned her to the workshop until the following Monday.

Mr. Middleton kept his word, for when the boat again started off to go under the bay the shore swarmed with people from far and near who came to see the sight.

Jack and his friends were nervous, for their appearance was yet fresh in their minds, but they were brave fellows, and without flinching or faltering they located the place where the Happy Fan was and went down.

It seemed an age to them ere they reached the bottom again alongside the sunken ship, but no accident befell them, and the Sea Spider came to a pause.

They sat on their diving costumes, and now prepared to leave the boat by going through a trap into a small shaft in the big central water chamber, and having closed the door behind them, they opened the other.

The water filled the shaft at once, and they strode out into the hold in their diving costumes and found the water very cool.

The electric lanterns on their helmets cast a ruddy glow around, and opening the trap in the bottom of the hull they stepped out onto the sea bottom.

Their metal suits were so arranged that they did not feel the increased pressure, and mechanical arrangements fastened on the sides of the helmets over their ears, which Jack called his audiphones, enabled them to hear each other speak nearly as plainly as if the water did not separate them.

The wreck of the Happy Fan lay heeled over close by, and the three divers made their way toward it together.

Jack was the first to reach it, and swinging himself up on deck, he made his way aft and entered the swinging cabin door and vanished from sight.

Tim and Fritz followed, but a moment later they heard Jack scream in loud tones:

"Help! Help! Oh, it's killing me—it's killing me!"

## CHAPTER V.

### UNDER THE SEA.

The cries Jack uttered brought Tim and Fritz running into the cabin of the Happy Fan, and as the powerful jets of light in the lamps on their helmets streamed out and lit up the surrounding water, they beheld a tragic scene.

Jack stood in the middle of the cabin with the tin box he had come after clutched under one arm, and in his hand he held an electric dagger, with which he was beating off a school of huge conger-eels.

These reptiles were from ten to fifteen feet in length, with thick, powerful bodies, and sharp, gleaming eyes.

One of the creatures had wound itself around Jack's body, and its sinuous coils were drawn as tight as a boa constrictor's, as it slowly began to crush the life out of the boy.

It was hard to strike a violent blow with anything under water, and the knife Jack operated worked with a spring, by which the long, keen blade shot out of the handle on pressing one of the screws with equal force to that of a blow.

Each time the boy darted out the blade, and it pierced an eel, the creature was sure to perish.

Upon seeing the boy's danger, Fritz and Tim glided over to his side, and attacking the eel which had wrapped its coils around him, they killed the creature.

A serious conflict then began between the divers and the rest of the huge eels, but as the voracious creatures are of a cannibalistic turn of mind, they began to devour their dead companions, and therefore ceased the battle themselves.

This being case, the divers retreated.

"Did the lubber hurt you, Jack?" queried the old sailor.

"He nearly broke my ribs with his squeezing," replied the boy.

"Och! I toughd it vhas de sea serpend," said Fritz.

They returned to the boat with the precious box, entered the trap in the side and closed it after them.

Going into the shaft, Jack pulled a lever, and the water was pumped out of the place, and they ascended the stairs to the deck above, and entered the pilot house.

Having abandoned their diving suits, Jack pulled one of the levers around on the switch, and the machinery pumped the ballast of water out of the Sea Spider.

She thereupon arose to the surface gradually, and within one hour after she had gone she reappeared on the top of the water.

As soon as the crowd saw her a cheer went up from every throat, hats and handkerchiefs were waved by the spectators, and a scene of the most intense excitement prevailed.

Jack saw Mr. Middleton upon the densely packed pier, and directing the Sea Spider over to it again, he soon brought it to a pause close to the spiles.

Taking the rescued box in his hands, the boy went out on deck with it, and held it up.

"Mr. Middleton," said he quietly. "Here is your box. I have won."

Every one was amazed, and none more so than the ship owner, who never expected to see the box.

In fact, Jack had turned the former sneers and ridicule with which he had always been met into cheers and acclamation.

The enthusiasm ran to fever heat when the news flew from mouth to mouth that the boy had secured the tin box.

Every one was excitedly yelling and talking.

Mr. Middleton took the now rusted box and broke it open.

Inside lay the papers he wanted, perfectly intact.

His face changed color, for he now had undeniable evidence that Jack's invention was a perfect success, and a great wonder.

Withdrawing the check for one thousand dollars from his pocket, he handed it to Jack, and said:

"Jack Wright, you are the victor!"

"Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!" yelled the crowd.

A proud smile illumined Jack's face as he took the check and bowed his acknowledgments to the enthusiastic crowd.

"I knew I would win!" said he.



Mr. Middleton got upon a stack of freight, and addressing the multitude in loud tones so all could hear, he said:

"My friends, I beg to say a few words to you in behalf of gallant Jack Wright, the most wonderful young inventor of the present century. Hitherto we have all been skeptical of the success of his father's invention, and dubbed him a madman. We have sneered at and ridiculed the son, and we have all acted in a mean, ungenerous spirit, for we all firmly believed that he was trying to gull us with an utter impossibility. Now, however, he has shamed us. He has proven that he was right in his theory and that we were a pack of consummate asses. He has fairly and squarely, at the risk of his life, proved that navigation under water is not only probable, but possible. For my own part, my friends, I publicly apologize to the boy, and know that in the generosity of his nature he cannot help forgiving all who have humbled, crushed and insulted him. Do you all not join me in trying to make amends for our past folly?"

A tremendous yell of approval pealed from every mouth. Jack was satisfied.

He bowed again and again, and then, holding up his hand as a signal for silence, he shouted:

"I can ask no more of you. I cheerfully let the past be forgotten, and I hope you will all learn a lesson from what has happened. I have vindicated myself with you all, and now I am going away in my boat in search of the lost treasure under the sea, to gain which this boat was built. When I come back I shall prove the second theory of my poor dead father to be correct, and teach you never to condemn until doubt can no longer exist."

Jack left them cheering, and returning to the interior of the boat, he sent her back to the workshop.

"Middleton's check saves me," cried the boy, with a smile, "for now I can store the boat with provisions for a long journey, and by the end of the week I am going to cross the Atlantic and hunt for the treasures of the Alpha and Omega."

"Yah," said Fritz solemnly. "Me und Dim vhas dalkin' over dot metter, und ve vas go mit you alretty."

"Tain't no use argyfyin' ther matter no longer," added Tim, taking a chew of navy plug. "We're satisfied now es this 'ere craft is jest as safe down in Davy Jones' locker as she are up on ther surface, an' we pins our faith on her. 'Sides that, how in blazes are you a-goin' ter navigate her alone? Can't he did nohow. Leastways not as long's we kin help ye, lad. Yer a good scholar wi' a scientific head, chock full ter ther hatches wi' courage an' ambition, but yer ain't no navigator, an' I am. Then wot good would either one on us be if Fritz wuzn't here ter cook us a good squar' meal, lad, eh?"

And so it was settled.

The trio then busied themselves for several days at getting everything in readiness, and when the day of departure came, and the Sea Spider glided out on the bay, they were met by an unexpected ovation from all the villagers on the shore.

A brass band played a triumphal march, flags and banners waved in the breeze with hundreds of handkerchiefs, guns boomed and fireworks were let off amid thunders of cries and applause from the Wrightstown people.

There was a small brass gun aboard of the boat, and a salute was fired from it, while the flag on the pole set in sockets forward was dipped several times, and then the Sea Spider opened up the headland, and, speeding out in blue water, started on her wonderful trip.

Jack stood at the wheel in the pilot house, and as the boat sped away from the land he turned to his companions, and with an exultant look in his dark eyes, he said:

"At last we are embarked on our cruise, and I can safely promise you that it will be replete with strange adventure, and end in a most satisfactory manner."

"An' when it's over, what d'ye intend ter do wi' ther boat?" the old sailor asked, as he glanced over a chart.

"I have not yet decided on that point, but I was thinking that it would find a ready sale to any government as a torpedo boat."

"Shermany, for inkstance?" suggested Fritz blandly.

"Avast, there!" angrily retorted Tim. "America, you mean, yer lubber!"

"Got oud; Vot you dink alretty, you don't vant no nafy?"

"No—not ter lick your lubberly country."

"Donner und blitzen! You vhas inzoolded mine coundry vonet?" demanded Fritz, bristling up with patriotic anger and shaking his fat fingers under Tim's long nose. "Ve vhas de greatest soldier by der world."

The subject was changed to the working of the boat, and they were deeply engrossed in the subject, when Jack suddenly pointed ahead, and remarked:

"There's a sail, Tim."

"Bearin' down on us, too," replied the sailor.

"What do you make her out to be?"

"A English cruiser."

"Isn't that queer—in these waters?"

"Why, no. She's pertectin' ther Canady fishin' banks. Thar's been a heap o' trouble atween our Government an' them Britishers fer some time past about that 'ere matter, an' they're now a-watchin' each other's interest sharp."

They keenly watched the stately frigate bearing down upon them under full sail, and soon verified the old sailor's statement, for they saw the British flag at her masthead.

It soon became evident that the Britisher also saw the Sea Spider, although it only laid seven feet above water when floating upon the surface.

The frigate laid off to the eastward, and the Sea Spider was going toward the southeast at the rate of ten knots an hour, and when they came within half a mile of each other a gun was discharged from the man-o'-war.

"Blast 'em, they orders us to haul to!" said Tim.

"What for?" queried the boy.

"Can't yer understand? They imagine this is a torpedo."

"Then they may try to make trouble for us, Tim."

"If we lets 'em."

"I shall not obey them."

"They'll fire at us if ye don't."

"Let them fire and be hanged. I'll sink her if they do."

He kept the Sea Spider going on her course, and the frigate turned a trifle and kept heading toward her.

The Britisher was now evidently bent upon running the submarine boat down, and the crew was doubtless offended at the cold indifference with which their order to lay to met.

This was demonstrated shortly afterwards.

They fired a shot over the Sea Spider.

As it went humming across the bow of the boat a chill passed over Jack, for he had seen that if the shot was aimed a few feet lower it would have pierced his boat.

"This is becoming rather hot," he remarked dryly.

"Ye'd better sink her, Jack," said the old sailor anxiously.

The boy turned the lever to do so, but the pump failed to obey its order to compress the air into the reservoirs.

Consequently the Sea Spider did not sink.

"The two sternmost propellers are working," exclaimed Jack in puzzled tones, "so I don't see why the air compressor don't work, as they are controlled by the same batteries."

"Has anything gone wrong, lad?"

"I fear so."

"Then stop ther boat—quick!"

"The frigate will overhaul us if I do."

"Aye, but you can't do anything else."

"Yes, I can. I'll run away first," said Jack.

And putting on full speed, the Sea Spider dashed ahead at double the velocity at which she had hitherto been going.

Another shot came howling from one of the frigate's guns, and as it was aimed to strike the Sea Spider, it went whistling within a few inches of it, but missed its mark.

It went plunging into the sea with a loud hiss.

Away went the boat at fully twenty knots an hour, its long cone glistening like polished silver in the golden glow of the setting sun, and the gunboat gave pursuit.

Suspicious of the peculiar-looking craft, the captain of the frigate was determined to find out what it was or blow it out of the water as speedily as possible.

Jack did not become the least bit excited.

He ordered Tim to go down in the battery and engine rooms to find out what the trouble was; then, foreseeing that to continue the race would endanger the boat, he brought it to a pause.

The frigate crept up nearer to it, and Fritz came rushing into the pilot house with an excited look, and gasped:

"Vot's der medder vonet?"

Jack pointed out one of the windows.

"Look and see for yourself," he remarked.

"Oh! A gunboat shoodin' at us alretty!" he remarked.

"Hallo, Tim," shouted Jack down the speaking tube. "Any news?"

"Aye, sir," came the reply. "A belt slipped off the gearin'."

"Put it back again."

The sailor did so, and came up the companionway again. But by this time the man-of-war had ranged up to within



twenty fathoms of the boat, and went up into the wind's eye with flapping canvas and shaking hull, her ports bristling with guns and her decks swarming with marines.

A boat dropped from its side, manned by an officer and four sailors, who pulled for the Sea Spider.

"Is everything all right now?" asked Jack, as Tim appeared.

"Aye, aye, sir," said the old fellow, with a salute.

"Then I'll have some fun with these autocrats!" said Jack, with a laugh, as he watched the boat's crew drawing nearer.

He kept his hand upon a lever, and fastened a keen watch upon the approaching sailors until their boat touched the side of the Sea Spider.

The officer and two of his men stepped on the forward cylinder of the boat, and pausing there, he shouted:

"Boat ahoy!"

Jack did not vouchsafe any reply.

"Boat ahoy!" repeated the officer angrily in louder tones.

Still no reply was given, no sign of animation was seen, and the Sea Spider lay like a log, lapped by the waves.

The officer and his men climbed up the cylinder with some difficulty toward the pilot house windows, evidently bent upon looking or getting inside of the boat.

Dark as the interior of the boat was, they could see the three figures standing within the pilot house.

Jack and his friends remained as quiet as mice.

But the moment the officer reached the tiny deck in front of the windows Jack turned the lever he had hold of.

In gushed the sea water, and down plunged the boat, leaving the officer and his two amazed men struggling upon the surface as the boat went from under them.

Down went the Sea Spider to the depth of ten feet below the surface ere Jack brought it to a pause.

Then he turned on the electric lights, and shot a glow up at the struggling figures of the three men whom he had given such an unexpected ducking, and he saw their friends in the boat take them aboard.

The three divers burst into a roar of laughter, and the boat drifted with the tide until it bumped against the hull of the frigate and came to a pause.

"We are safe enough from them now," said Jack smilingly.

"I guess dot dey don'd petter fool mit us some more," said Fritz.

"That ere sousin' must a-took some o' ther starch out o' their necks," chuckled Tim, as he steered the boat away from the frigate.

"It will be safer for us to proceed under water until we throw that fellow off our track," said Jack, "so I will sink her down an atmosphere, and we will have supper."

He accordingly did so, and the Sea Spider glided on through the sea, out of the influence of the waves and out of sight of the wonder-struck sailors on the man-of-war.

Fritz then served a toothsome mess, and a watch was divided, Jack taking first trick at the wheel, while the other two turned in.

All alone stood the boy at the wheel down in the still depths of the sea, driving his singular craft along at a rapid pace across the vast Atlantic, surrounded by strange fishes and other living denizens of the deep.

He steered by the compass for the isle on the African coast, and the Sea Spider acted admirably.

Several hours thus passed by, and the boy was about to arouse Tim to relieve him, when suddenly there came a wrench at the boat that nearly hurled him down.

The Sea Spider began to gyrate, and then spun around faster and faster, and presently began to shoot ahead at a rate of speed far greater than that at which her propellers were capable of driving her at their best.

Jack was startled, and glancing out of the window, he saw that the boat was in the grasp of some mighty current that was dragging it along and downward with resistless force.

## CHAPTER VI.

### A SHIP IN DISTRESS.

"Fritz! Tim! Awake! Help me. I can't manage the boat."

It was Jack's wild shouts that awakened the two sleepers, and they bounded from their berths in the cabin, and ran into the pilot house, where they found the boy inventor struggling with might and main to turn the Sea Spider out

of the awful current into which she had so unexpectedly plunged.

One glance out of the windows of the pilot house showed his friends with what appalling speed the boat was rushing on and downward, for fishes, sea weed and other objects were passed like lightning.

Jack could not turn the rudder with the wheel.

"Tim! Come here!" he gasped.

"Aye, aye! Wot current is this as we're in now?" asked the sailor.

"Heaven only knows! Hold the wheel with me."

The old sailor obeyed, and Fritz gasped:

"Vot can I do dot I help you, Shack?"

"Pull that lever—No. 3. We must compress the air into one of the chambers and fill and sink below the current or we are lost."

There was no other hope of escaping the awful current, so the Dutch boy did as he was told, and the boat rapidly sank.

Down, down, down it went, yet the grasp of the strange current did not seem to relax.

They were going in a direction different from that in which they desired to go, and noticed that an unusual heat in the water was making the air stifling in the boat.

Then the truth dawned upon Jack.

"We must be in the Gulf Stream!" he gasped.

The strange, warm current of which he spoke that swept up from the Mexican gulf adds about three miles an hour to the speed of vessels on the surface of the sea, but down below at the depth the Sea Spider was sunk to, it ran ten times stronger.

Within a few minutes the Sea Spider was down to a depth of two hundred feet, yet the fierce intensity of the current increased instead of diminishing.

The three then held a consultation, and it was decided to raise the boat to the surface.

"If she keeps going down at this rate," said Jack, "she may strike a rock and go to pieces."

There was no way of knowing what might be in the elevations and depressions of the sea bottom below, beyond the limit of the searchlight, yet Tim said:

"Tain't likely as we'll hit no rocks."

"Why you dink you dot?" queried Fritz.

"Because this 'ere current allers a-runnin' would wear away any rocks an' sich like wot might a-been in ther bed o' ther stream."

"That's a sensible view. We'll raise her, anyway, though," said Jack, and turning a lever he set the machinery to work pumping the water out of the boat, and she began to rise. Presently she reached the surface.

There her onward flight was materially checked, and as no further danger was apprehended, Jack and Fritz soon after turned in, and Tim went on duty.

The following day dawned gloomily.

The navigators partook of a good breakfast, and then repaired to the pilot house, where they caught a good look at the sea, and saw that a storm was brewing.

The water and sky both had turned very dark, and the wind had risen with a moaning and mournful dirge, as it went sweeping across the ocean.

Low over the leaping waves skimmed sea birds, with piercing cries, and off to the windward there loomed up a dense wall of fog.

It came rolling toward the half-submerged Sea Spider propelled by a gale of wind, heaping up the sea in a white curling wall of foam before it.

"A white squall!" exclaimed Jack.

"Aye, lad, an' thar's a ship athwart its course," said Tim, pointing at a full-rigged brig to the southward that was rolling and pitching on the choppy waves with all sails set and the crew trying to furl and reef.

"She petter got oudt of the vay vonct," said Fritz, "or dot vall of vite cloudts vill smack her by der chaw."

It was evident that the ship was making every effort to weather the storm, but it was equally as evident that she was doomed to meet it ere she was ready.

On came the wall of mist with a humming sound, and presently it reached the brig, which had turned its stern to the storm, intending to scud before it.

Unfortunately some of her topsails were left standing when the gale struck her astern, and she plunged her bowsprit under and tripped herself, for a succeeding gust came immediately after the first one.



It held her half submerged, and then the wall of foamy water struck her and made a breach clear over her decks.

Within an instant the ship was buried out of sight, and hidden behind the wall of mist.

After a brief interval the mist parted, and the crew of the Sea Spider caught a glimpse of the storm-beaten vessel.

Her main-topmast was blown away, the foremast studding-sails were torn to ribbons, and were streaming out ahead, and her mizzen mast had broken off close to the deck and went by the board.

"She's a wreck!" Tim exclaimed excitedly.

"Yes," replied Jack, pityingly, "and before that gale is done playing with her she'll be dismantled."

"Och! Heavens, vot a bity!" groaned Fritz. "Vy ve can't go by dot ship, und helb dose fellers alretty?"

"It won't do to remain on the surface to meet that storm," said Jack, "so we will sink a fathom or two and run toward her under water to render what help we can."

Accordingly the Sea Spider was sunk, and Jack steered straight toward the raging storm.

A peculiar sensation was then experienced.

No sooner had the boat passed under the squall when a terrific motion of the boat followed, caused by the upheaval and breaking of the tremendous waves above them.

The winds forced the sea up in heaps and ploughed furrows in it more or less deep, but this movement of the waves did not extend to any considerable depth.

"Every wave," exclaimed Jack, noticing his friends' nervous uneasiness, "propagates its motion to a depth of three hundred and fifty times its own height. That's why we feel the motion here. If the waves above are thirty feet high, their motion is felt ten thousand feet below. But at a comparatively slight depth the motion is very feeble, and they can't affect us at all a little lower down."

"It must be werry rough above, then," said Tim.

"Vot makes me feel yust like a cork gittin' shaken up in a pottle vonct?" said Fritz.

"You look seasick," laughed Jack.

"I dink so, somedimes," dolefully answered Fritz.

"Shall we ascend now, Tim?"

"I reckon we're mighty near ther brig."

"Then up we go. Stand by, now."

He sent the Sea Spider to the surface.

A swift glance around showed them the ship plunging in the stormy seas a few fathoms away, half heeled over, her crew clinging to every available thing for dear life, and the waves making breaches over her every minute.

Here the wind was raging and shrieking like a legion of fiends, the seas were tumbling and tossing with pent-up fury, and the lowering clouds were so black that a dark, gloomy pall overhung everything.

In one glance Jack took in the situation, and said:

"There is only one way to save the crew of that ship."

"Wot's ther plan?" queried Tim.

"If she lays rolling there so helplessly, getting knocked about by the wind and waves," replied the boy, "she is sure to go to pieces, and the crew will founder with her, if, indeed, they ain't first washed overboard."

"But vot ve can do?" demanded Fritz anxiously.

"Throw them a tow-line, and let the Sea Spider drag her along with the storm until it spends its strength."

"Aye, aye, but who'll venture out ter toss 'em a line?"

"To go out on the deck of the Sea Spider exposes a fellow to the risk of getting washed overboard," said Jack, "but I'll venture to do it if you'll manage the boat."

"Aye, aye, that I will readily. Yer see, if I wuz ter do it my ole wooden leg an' glass eye'd make me fail."

"Yes, you could scarcely do it," said Jack, as he steered the boat as near to the wreck as he could with safety.

He then put the wheel in Tim's hands, instructed him how to act, and securing a long, thin, but tremendously strong wire cable, he went up a staircase to a trap in the deck.

Pushing it open, a mass of sea water poured in on him, but he made his way through it, and went out on deck in the midst of the blinding storm on his errand of charity.

## CHAPTER VII.

### AN ACCIDENT OCCURS.

"Ship ahoy! Ship ahoy!"

Clinging to the handrail on the deck of the Sea Spider, Jack faced the gale in a mass of flying spray and shouted with all his might to the ship's crew.

His voice pealed out shrilly upon the roaring wind, and was drowned by the bellowing of the raging billows so that the men on the ship failed to hear it.

"Ship ahoy!" he screamed again at the top of his voice.

Clear and distinct the cry now pealed above the din of the elements, and was wafted to the ears of the crew, some of whom glanced over at the Sea Spider.

They were justly astonished.

At first they imagined it was an enormous denizen of the deep, but as soon as they observed Jack standing there on deck they realized that it must be a strange vessel of some kind without masts.

"Ship ahoy!" came the reply.

Jack heard it at once, although the next instant a bellowing wave broke over the Sea Spider and engulfed him in a drowning mass of brine.

As soon as he recovered, he shouted

"Stand by to catch a line!"

"Aye, aye!"

"We will aid you!"

"Thank heaven!"

Under the skillful management of the old sailor, the Sea Spider ran up to within a dozen yards of the wreck, and Jack prepared to fling the hawser.

Both vessels were plunging and rolling—first down in the trough, then riding upon the crest of the waves.

It was a very hazardous thing to do, when Tim brought both vessels together in such a rough sea, for a collision would have sent them both to the bottom; yet no such accident occurred.

Jack swung the coils of the wire rope around and around his head, and then let them fly with a loud hiss.

Uncoiling as the bights shot over the intervening sea, the line reached the deck of the other vessel, and one of the fortunate seamen caught it.

Within a minute it was made fast to a stanchion, and Jack secured the end to a ringbolt on the after part of the deck.

Then he dove down below and closed the trap door safely.

Jack hastened into the pilot house, and there he found Tim skillfully driving the boat along with the storm.

The hawser became stiff and taut, and as the Sea Spider dashed away, the ship was towed after it rapidly with the rushing storm, the spray dashing up over them in clouds, the waves rolling along astern in bulging masses, and they both rode easier.

The violence of the wind seemed to abate, now that they were going with it, and the dashing billows no longer up-reared their heads or breached over them.

They passed along with great swiftness, riding over the surging, tempest-tossed seas with ease, and covered mile after mile amid the vividest flashes of lightning and the most violent thunder claps.

"Hurrah!" yelled Tim delightedly, as he cut a caper with his wooden leg and winked his good eye. "By ther big binnacle o' Neptune, we've overcome the storm!"

Jack entered one of the side turrets, by means of which he was enabled to see what was going on in back of the Sea Spider, and looked at the wreck.

She was towing on a level keel.

All the crew was on deck, clearing away the wreckage and getting down the torn sails from the standing masts as fast as they could in order to make their craft more manageable.

"All hands are safe now," remarked Jack, in satisfied tones.

"Aye, aye," cheerily replied Tim, as he twisted the wheel, "an' Lor' bless yer soul, they owes their lives ter you!"

An hour passed by, and the storm began to diminish.

"How is she going now?" queried the boy.

"Fifteen knots, accordin' to ther indicator-log as you've invented an' put up on ther wall there."

"Slacken speed to ten knots."

"Aye, aye."

"Fritz!" said Jack to the Dutch boy in the other window.

"Yah!" replied the young Dutchman.

"Avast thar!" interposed Tim, looking displeased.

"Vot's der medder?"

"Say, 'Aye, aye,' like a sailor."

"Yah."

"Belay, ye lubber."

"Yah."

"Hush!" interposed Jack. "Fritz, keep a lookout astern."

"Yah."



"Blast yer timbers, didn't I tell yer ter——"

"Watch the ship," interrupted Jack.

"Vell—vot else?"

"See if she overhauls us any."

An interval of silence ensued, then Fritz said

"Look oudt, she vhas a-comin' quicker as ve vent."

"The wind has got her in its grasp."

"Now de tow line vhas shlackin' mit itselluf."

Just then there sounded a terrific uproar astern, and the machinery moved laboriously.

"What's the matter?" demanded Jack in affright.

"De tow line vhas got caught mit de brobeller."

"Tangled in the propeller?"

"Yah."

"Tim, stop the boat!"

"Aye, aye, sir," said the old sailor, complying.

The wheels stopped revolving, and Jack grasped a hatchet and rushed up on deck as fast as he could.

A dismaying sight met his view.

As soon as the Sea Spider went slower the towing line sagged, and had spun around on the axis and blades of the propellers, rendering the boat unfit to travel.

Here was a dilemma.

Both vessels began to roll, pitch and toss again.

Unless the line was cut between the propeller and the ship in tow there was bound to be a collision between the two boats that must certainly have fatal results.

It was a dangerous thing to cut the line, for to do so it was necessary to go out to the extreme end of the Sea Spider under water in order to get at it.

The crew of the brig saw what the trouble was.

"Ship ahoy!" shouted the captain.

"Ahoy there!" responded Jack.

"Isn't the hawser caught?"

"Yes. It is binding our propellers."

"Shall I cast off this end?"

"Yes—by all means."

The man did so, and Jack re-entered the Sea Spider.

"Well?" queried Tim.

"We can't get that wire off unless we sink to the bottom," said the boy; "and we can't go ahead until it is off."

"Aye, now, but wot's ther soundin' hereabouts?"

"That's a mystery to me."

"How deep kin a reg'lar diver go under water?"

"Seldom more, and rarely as, deep as 175 feet."

"Aye, but we must be in five thousand feet depth here."

"This boat can stand it, and I believe our suits can also permit us to enter that depth for a few minutes."

"Shall I sink her?"

"Yes, unless you know of any other means of getting rid of the wire."

"Only by a-goin' out on the end in a divin' suit."

"We can't do it in this storm, Tim."

"Then le's get out of it by a-sinkin', an' fust try ter remedy ther trouble by attackin' it from up here."

"You feel timid about going to such a depth?"

"Aye, aye, sir," frankly admitted Tim.

"Very well. Sink her a few fathoms to get out of the storm."

The ship was able to take care of herself now, so they left her and sank.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE UNDER WATER BATTLE.

Well knowing that the brig could now take care of itself, as there were spars and sails and men enough left on board to navigate her to port, the crew of the Sea Spider remained buried three fathoms under the sea till the storm was past.

Jack then entered the storeroom, and donning a diving suit without any weights, he went down in the water chamber, and it filled with water without filling the entire compartment, so the boat could not sink.

His air knapsack was so buoyant that it floated him, and might have lifted him to the surface had he not clung to the hull of the submarine boat, as he crept out to the propeller net.

After a few moments he successfully reached it.

A glance showed Jack that the netting which surrounded the propellers had become unfastened, which gave the blades an opportunity to wind the cable around the axis.

Fortunately Jack had brought just the right kind of tools with him to release the cable and refasten the net, and as he had plenty of light from the reflector upon his helmet, and was a rapid workman, he soon finished his task.

Fritz and Tim each stood in one of the forward side windows of the pilot house, watching him, and reflecting the searchlight upon him while he was working.

Myriads of fishes were swimming about the boy and the boat as it hung there in midsea with an awful depth yawning below them, probably attracted by the lights.

Schools of mackerel, large tunny fish, globe fish and anglers mingled with sea-cats, torpedoes and pipe fish, while among them leisurely floated beautiful hydrozoa, aurelias and medusa.

The latter were exquisite creatures of the jelly-fish tribe, yet it is the belief of scientific men that experienced swimmers often owe their sudden drowning to the attack of these handsome, inoffensive-looking creatures.

The floating medusa, for example, resembled a mushroom, the stalk of which separated into lobes, twisted, shriveled and fringed, the edges of the cup delicately cut and provided with long, threadlike appendages which descended vertically in the water, like drooping branches of a willow.

The gelatinous substance of their bodies was in some as clear as crystal, and in others opaline, bright blue, and pale and rose color, their soap-bubble bodies affording food for whales.

When Jack had finished his task, he stood on the conical deck of the motionless Sea Spider watching the contraction and expansion of their bodies by which they swam, when suddenly a huge, dark body came shooting out of the vast waste beyond.

He cast one glance at the fish and shuddered.

"A swordfish!" he muttered.

Jack had cause for alarm, for the creature, twenty feet in length, carried a sharp, bony spear eight feet long at its snout.

The boy knew that these pirates of the ocean attack with the most intense fury all large-moving objects, animated only by a pure love of destruction, for they swim at the fearful velocity of a mile a minute, and it is this charging which gives its lance such a terrible force.

A case is known where a fish drove its sword into the metal sheathing of a ship, and through the timbers; to drive a pointed iron bolt so far would require a score of blows with a thirty-pound hammer.

The fish paused a short distance from the boat, and after a curious survey, it swam around it.

Jack followed it keenly with his glance.

"If that devil of the deep makes up his mind to attack the Sea Spider," he muttered in dismay, "he will drive his sword into her, and perhaps sink her to the bottom."

"Not knowing exactly what to do, Jack accidentally shot the glare of his electric light into the creature's eyes, dazzling it.

The swordfish gave one plunge and vanished.

A sigh of relief burst from Jack's lips.

"Thank heaven, it's gone!" he muttered.

He was just about to walk up the cone to the deck of the boat, to signify to Tim that everything was all right, when, like a flash of light, the swordfish suddenly reappeared.

Jack gave a nervous start.

He again flashed his light in its eyes.

Instead of driving it away, he aroused its anger, and it made a dash for the bull's-eye fastened on top of his helmet with such fearful rapidity that Jack scarcely had time to duck when the monster shot over his head and vanished in the gloom beyond.

Jack knew very well it would return.

Nor was he mistaken; for it soon came back.

Then, however, he was prepared for it.

Detaching an electric wire from his belt, he thrust the brass plug in the end of it into a screw hole in one of his pistols.

He kept a wary glance fixed upon the swordfish, and as it was just upon the point of darting at him again, he aimed his weapon and pulled the trigger.

There was no report from it—only a tiny electric spark, but a conical projectile was shot from the weapon, and, true to its aim, it lodged in the body of the fish.

For an instant nothing occurred save a sudden convulsion of the creature from the pain of its wound.

Then the ball exploded within its body.



A slight report was faintly heard, and a moment later the swordfish was literally blown to fragments.

Jack's newly invented electric revolver was a success, and a thrill of joy passed over him to see how well it operated.

All the other fish were scared away, and only a few bubbles arose to the surface of the sea to tell that any unusual disturbance had taken place down in the dense solitude under the water.

The boy returned to the interior of the boat, and having divested himself of his diving suit, he said:

"The wheels are clear now; return to the surface, Tim."

The sailor started the boat to the surface, and asked:

"Wuzn't that 'ere swordfish a-tryin' ter foul ye, lad?"

"He wanted to kill me."

"Aye, now, I told ye, Fritz, ye onmannerly lubber!"

"Vell, he vhas plowed all to pieces, don't id?"

"Them 'ere electrical pistols are wonders."

Just then the boat reached the surface, and they saw that all traces of the storm were now gone.

The sea was tranquil, the sun shone down like a ball of burnished fire, and a fresh, fragrant breeze was sweeping over the sea.

Not a sign of the brig was to be seen.

"As she is out of sight," said Jack, "I have no doubt but that she has got under sail and went on."

"Keel haul me, then, but she must a-been all right," said Tim.

"Dot poat vhas retty to go?" queried Fritz.

"Yes. It's your trick at the wheel, isn't it?"

"Yah."

"Then start off."

The Sea Spider continued her course, and a week passed uneventfully by, during which they met with fair weather, and traveled at twenty knots all the time.

During this time Jack intently studied the old Spanish manuscript, and compared it with several maps which he and his father had frequently pored over in days gone by.

The maps were outlines of the west African coast, and were marked with every isle from the Azores down to the Cape of Good Hope. One in particular had been especially marked. It was the one, a league to the westward of which the ancient Spanish treasure galleons were supposed to have gone down with their precious cargoes of gold.

"As the Alpha and Omega were linked together when they sunk, it was likely that they would lie side by side now," said Jack to his friends. "But then if they were worked by tides they might get shifted along over the bed of the sea, until they were carried into a depression on the surface of the bottom in which they might have lodged, below the influence of currents."

"I'm afeard as we won't find 'em very easy," said Tim doubtingly.

"According to sounding about the vicinity in which they are supposed to lie," said Jack, "they cannot lie in water any deeper than three hundred feet. You must also remember that the sands and mud on the sea bottom shift all the time. They may lay bare, or they may be buried and hidden in sand. Then, again, they may have rotted and fallen to pieces; but of one thing I am sure—we will find them."

"I hope me dot," said Fritz soberly.

"Many attempts have been made at different times by various people to secure the treasure," said Jack, "but so far beyond the depth of divers do they lie, that up to the present no one has succeeded in getting them."

Just then a steamer hove in sight.

Fritz sighted it, and Jack procured a good binocular and took a survey of it, when a startled exclamation burst from his lips.

"Why, wot's ther matter wi' ye, lad?" gasped Tim.

"Do you see that steamer?" muttered Jack.

"Aye, that I do."

"It's a pirate!"

"Hey?"

"Look at the flag she flies—the body is black, with a white skull and crossbones."

"Aye, now—so she is."

"And there's a man-o'-war in pursuit of her!"

## CHAPTER IX.

### FIGHTING A PIRATE.

Jack sunk the Sea Spider until only the low turrets of her pilot house remained above the waves, and they watched the chase with the utmost interest.

The frigate worked with steam, as well as with sails, and as she rapidly overhauled the flying pirate there came a puff of smoke, a belch of fire, and a report from her deck.

A shot went screaming over the water from one of her guns after the piratical steamer, and raked her forward deck.

It was a stern command for her to haul to, but the buccancer failed to obey it; on the contrary, the bold commander of the vessel came about, and as the steamer luffed up a broadside was poured in at the man-of-war.

The heavy discharge of the ordnance rolled like muttering thunder over the waves, and several of the heavy caliber shots struck the man-of-war, cutting through its standing rigging and shivering some of the deck works.

Undaunted by the damage and loss of life, the frigate ran up the proud banner of the United States to her truck and returned the disastrous fire.

There was not much chance for the pirate to run, now that they were at close quarters, so both vessels broached to, and turning a second broadside upon each other, they fired again.

It was a terrific discharge, and echoed over the sea with awful intonations, a vast cloud of smoke arising and enveloping both ships, hiding them from view.

When the smoke finally lifted, it revealed the frigate lying crippled with a huge hole stove in her hull and two of her masts shot away.

"The pirate has dismantled the frigate," said Jack, "and now the rascal is preparing to take to flight."

"Gol durn 'em, an' one o' Uncle Sam's ships, too!" said Tim wildly, for all his sympathies were with our navy.

"Vell, id vhas pedder dot vay as a Sherman ship," said Fritz.

"Belay, thar, ye lubber!" roared Tim, thoroughly aroused at this. "Don't yer dar' say a word about our navy, confound yer! I remember when I wuz aboard o' ther Wabash, we once had a run in wi' a Dutch frigate, an' blowed it clean up in the air out o' ther water wi' one o' our forty-pound Armstrong guns."

"Shessnuds!" said Fritz derisively.

"Don't quarrel," interposed Jack. "I hate to see our country's flag humiliated by such a rascal as that pirate, and I think I have the means in my power of turning the tide of battle in the marine's favor."

"How are that?" eagerly demanded Tim. "Show me how I can serve ther old flag, an' ye kin shiver my timber leg if I won't sacrifice my life ter do it."

Jack opened a small case on the wall and took out a vial, from which he emptied a floury white powder into his hand.

"Do you see this compound?" he asked.

Tim and Fritz nodded affirmatively.

"Do you know what it is?" proceeded Jack.

"No," was the sailors' reply.

"Well, I'll tell you. It's a high explosive when mixed with a certain chemical. In its present condition it is so harmless you could do anything with it. It makes no noise in exploding, yet its power is greater than that of gunpowder, dynamite, or guncotton. One ounce of this stuff exploded under that pirate would blow the ship to fragments."

Tim and Fritz were amazed.

"Den vy yer don't do it?" demanded the Dutch boy.

"Aye, aye! Blow ther lubbers aloft into ther sky!"

"I shall do so under one condition."

"An' wot may that be, sir?"

"If we fail to drag the pirate over to the frigate."

"Dot blan vhas pedder still," said Fritz. "Ve got dem glose by each odder, und den dey all vill haf a fight mit each odder und plow dem ships mid pieces!"

Jack took a projectile from the case on the wall.

It looked like an elongated cartridge; and, going to the after bulge in the deck he paused beside an object that resembled a very small Gatling gun.

It was, in fact, a weapon designed to discharge one hundred shots a minute, and carried a magazine of one thousand shots.

The gun worked by a hydraulic pressure of gas, the explosion of which expelled the projectiles with force enough to carry ten miles, if necessary.

Moreover, the projection of shots was accomplished by the gun without shock or heat, so that if any high explosives such as dynamite were used, the bombs would not explode until they struck the object aimed at.

The boy unfastened the feed of the magazine, inserted the deadly shell, and locked the gun breech again.



He then protruded the muzzle of the piece through a water-tight disk of rubber with a slit in it in one of the window frames.

Having done this, he went into the storeroom, and, donning a diving suit, he left the visor open and withdrew from one of the lockers a small chain cable with a peculiar, cuplike object on the end, and went into the pilot house with it.

"Tim," said he to the old sailor, "I am going up on deck, and you can then lower a boat about one fathom beneath the surface and run after the pirate. Put on a speed of twenty knots so that we will soon overhaul him."

The old sailor assented, and Jack went up on deck.

Laying himself down flat and hanging on to the railing, the boy fastened one end of the cable he held to the ring-belt astern, and then the boat sank.

Submerged, it darted rapidly ahead, and soon came up to the pirate vessel which was now going as fast as her propeller could drive her, to escape.

Tim managed the Sea Spider so well that she ran beneath the steamer, and kept pace with her.

As soon as this was done, Jack arose to his feet and attached the cuplike sucker at the end of the cable to the bow of the steamer at the bilge, and then re-entered the Sea Spider, where he divested himself of his armor.

"Now, Tim, start her back for the frigate," he said.

"Aye, aye, sir," said the sailor, and he did so.

The moment the Sea Spider veered around, she pulled the bow of the pirate after her.

Amazed at the peculiar actions of the boat, the crew tried by every means to keep her going away from the man-of-war without being able to do so.

Despite the rudder being turned properly, she was dragged helplessly along, back to the man-of-war.

The crew of the latter, imagining that she had come back to give them battle, at once began action, and poured broadside after broadside into her.

Unable to turn around to do the same or get a shot back at the frigate, the pirate had to use but one gun standing up forward, and was nearly blown out of the water.

The cable which linked the sea rover to the submarine boat parted from the shot of a broadside, and the pirate was free to act as she pleased.

She began to return the man-of-war's fire, and as her guns were the heaviest, bid fair to blow the frigate to pieces, as it could scarcely maneuver, when the Sea Spider arose.

She came up between the two boats.

The moment the two crews saw her, there was a cessation of hostilities, for they imagined it was a torpedo boat.

No one on the Sea Spider was visible.

For an instant she lay on the water's surface, like a log, moving with the swell of the sea.

Then Jack shouted to the men on the man-of-war through an audiphone set in one of the windows:

"Is that a pirate?"

"Aye," came the reply. "Crew mutinied, seized the steamer, and turned it into a freebooter, committing many crimes on the sea."

"Shall we destroy her?"

"By all means, if you can."

"Are you and your craft safe?"

"We can repair all damage and navigate."

"Then watch the pirate."

As Jack spoke, he turned the Sea Spider around, presenting the stern ports to the buccaneer.

The boy went aft and sighted the gun, for the cartridge he put in it was ready to be fired.

He turned a lever, putting the gun in operation.

Only one shot was discharged, and yet no explosion accompanied it, but the missile screamed as it was projected.

It struck the hull of the pirate, penetrated, and then there followed an awful roar that shook the sea.

The huge vessel was blown into atoms with all on board, and the voracious sea swallowed its remains.

The Stars and Stripes went fluttering up to the top of the flag pole, and the next moment the Sea Spider dove under the water.

## CHAPTER X.

### THE PEARL DIVERS.

A few days later the Sea Spider was among the Azores, the depth of ocean from the Lesser Antilles to that point through which the boat passed measuring from 17,000 to 23,300 feet.

Down along the African coast from the Azores the sea coast is not very deep, excepting along the Madeira and Canary Islands.

"The sea's surface is hottest at the equator and coldest at the poles," Jack told his friends, as the boat was turned to the southward. "Sea water is so dense it isn't easily penetrated by the sun's rays, and I've got records to show that while it is hot under icebergs, it is cool below in latitude 43 degrees."

"Under the equator?" asked Tim, in surprise.

"Yes. At 6,000 feet below, the thermometer marks 41 degrees, while on the surface it indicates 80."

"Den ve vhas goin' by a puddy hot blace to vork," said Fritz. "Id vhas pedder dot ve shtay down by der bottom of de sea, as to go by der top if ve vant to be comfor'ble."

From the Western Islands the Sea Spider made a bee line for the coast of Morocco, and came in sight of land below the Strait of Gibraltar near Tangier.

They did not press in too close to the shore, for the water was dotted with numerous fishing boats of all kinds.

The farther southward they proceeded the more boats they encountered, but as they wished to shun observation, Jack decided to travel by day under water, and at night on the surface.

"We have got to get down to the Gold Coast of Guinea ere we will arrive anywhere near our destination," the boy told his friends, "for the island described in the old manuscript has been located there by the Spanish Government. In order to have all details defined, my father wrote to the officials of that country, and they gave him a correct description of the exact location of the fiery island in the shape of a cloven hoof."

Fritz sank the boat.

Below the sea's surface at this location the scene was very strange to mortal eyes.

Everywhere the submarine soil in its shape bears a resemblance to the subaerial surface, for there were valleys, plains, hills, ravines, encampments, deserts of sand, great mud deposits, rolled stones, picturesque rocks, water springs and volcanoes.

There was scant light a short distance down, various sea plants floated their long, brilliantly colored ribbons in the most graceful curves and modulations, or displayed their elegant tracery in fine, clear-cut relief, like trees on land.

Animals moved slowly, springs of fresh water were dispersed in vapor, and fish of every known species disported themselves about, the largest eating the small fry, and vice versa.

Water-logged wood lay on the bottom like the barnacle-covered rocks, covered with slime and overgrown with sea weed, hiding great sea crabs and reptiles, the bright glaring eyes of which viciously shone out at the inmates of the submarine boat.

Occasionally a wreck was met with, half buried in the sand or mud, some yet in a fair state of preservation, and others all fallen to pieces, their rotten timbers resting on ground littered with rusted ironwork, broken anchors, and remains from the cargoes and interior furnishings of their quarters.

It has been calculated of the fish tribe among herring alone that if they could multiply during twenty years without losing their spawn or fry, the offspring would form a mass ten times greater than the globe.

It is estimated that there are 8,000 species of fishes, 4,500 shell fishes, and 2,500 coral and star fishes within the 25,000-square miles comprising the Atlantic Ocean, so you may form an idea of the wonders revealed to our hardy adventurers throughout their trip.

On the second day, as they were coasting in shallow water they suddenly came upon a curious sight.

Directly athwart the course of the boat there suddenly shot the dark figure of a naked negro, with a rope around him.

He carried weights to sink his body, and he landed in the midst of half a dozen more men who were searching the bottom in quest of sponges and pearl oysters.

Jack brought the boat to a pause.

"Look there!" he exclaimed, pointing at the men.

"Divers!" exclaimed Tim.

"Naked men, py shiminetty!" said Fritz, in amazement.

"They're natives of Morocco diving for sponges."

"Aye, now, an' good ones they is, too."

As yet the men had not seen the boat.

They ran a great risk of drowning, being devoured by



sharks, and suffocation, in consequence of having to hold their breath for a protracted time.

The most robust young men are chosen for this trade, but they seldom continue in it more than five or six years.

Their fibres eventually stiffen, the pupils of their eyes become red, and they frequently die of consumption.

These divers deposit the oyster containing the pearls in boats 28 feet long, of which three or four hundred make up a fleet.

Each boat has eight stones which serve as anchors, while the crew numbers five to eight men, all of whom dive in turn.

The men had nets suspended around their necks, into which they put the oysters, their hands being gloved to preserve them from wounds they might get in detaching the shells from the rocks, and they descended by the help of a cord to which a fifty-pound weight is attached.

Placing their feet in a kind of stirrup, with the left hand they held the cord and with the right closed their nostrils to prevent the exit of air, of which they took a deep breath previous to their descent to the bottom.

Having gone down, they signaled to those in the boat to raise the stone, after which they began to speedily fill their nets with shells, which being done, they signaled to have the nets raised, after which they arose themselves to get breath.

"I'm going to surprise them," said Jack.

"How you make yourselluf dot?" queried Fritz.

"I will drop the boat to the bottom, we will don our suits and go out and join the divers," explained Jack.

They all fell in with this proposition at once, and hastened to put it into practice.

The Sea Spider was rested upon the sea bottom, and having put on their diving armor, the three went into the water room and passed out of the hull upon a sandy bottom.

"Keep together," said Jack. "They don't see us yet."

"Aye, now, but we ain't got our figger head lights lit."

"Then light up now."

They turned on their pocket batteries, and three piercing shafts of dazzling light shot from their helmets.

Hastening toward the divers, the men saw them.

For an instant they stood fairly paralyzed; they then recovered, and wondering what strange sort of beings these were who could walk and talk under the sea, one after another they shot up toward the surface, vanishing like magic.

Only two of the boldest remained.

They, too, might have beat a retreat, but just as they were about to do so an enormous monster appeared.

"Look out!" shouted Jack. "It's a giant cuttlefish!"

The horrible creature was hovering over the two men, and fastened its tentacles upon them.

The hideous object resembled a sack with serpent-like arms surrounding a horrible mouth, with which it seizes its prey and sucks them as a spider does a fly in order to enjoy at his ease the juicy flesh of its struggling victim.

At the ends of its tentacles it had cuplike suckers, which once fastened on a victim, never relaxed till they were cut off, and wherever they touch the skin is seared, burned and puckered, filling its victim with the most excruciating agony.

The two unfortunate divers it had caught struggled desperately to get away and save their lives, but the creature clung to them, its disengaged tentacles waving about like willow tree branches in a gale of wind.

"Good heavens!" pityingly exclaimed Jack. "It will kill them."

"Go for dot son-of-a-gun!" roared Fritz excitedly.

"Hold on, boys—I'll manage it alone!" said Jack.

He hastened toward the cuttle fish without a weapon in his hand, and Tim and Fritz followed, for they did not have much confidence in the boy's ability to cope alone with the horrible creature.

The moment Jack reached it, he fearlessly ran up to its gaping mouth, and, heedless of the rest of its tentacles fastening upon him, he thrust his arm inside of the gluttonous monster.

A warning yell burst from his two friends.

They feared that the creature would kill the boy.

Jack knew what he was doing, however, for with one pull he turned the cuttle fish inside out like a glove, and, contrary to every one's expectation, the creature did not survive the strange operation, but released its victims.

They at once ascended to the surface, half drowned.

The cuttle fish lay squirming on the ground, and Jack burst into a fit of laughter, and exclaimed,

"That shows the advantage of study. If every diver read of the creatures that so often threaten his life under the sea, he could dispose of any cuttle fish that might attack him, and thus save his life."

## CHAPTER XI.

### A COLLISION.

The adventurers returned on board of the Sea Spider a few minutes afterward, and feeling assured that the Morrocco pearl divers were frightened away from that spot, they divested themselves of their suits.

It was then two bells (one o'clock), and Fritz put a savory luncheon upon the table in the cabin, to which they all did ample justice; then Jack entered the pilot house, and turning a lever he started the boat.

"Those divers no doubt imagined we were a peculiar race of people who inhabit the sea," laughed Jack, "and were wonder-stricken upon beholding us."

"Lor' bless you, lad," said Tim, taking a chew of navy plug, "if yer hadn't set sail fer that 'ere devil fish an' fouled its chawin' tackle wi' yer starboard flipper, ther critter'd made a Mathew Walker out o' them, sure pop."

Just then a most horrible sound emanated from the cabin, and Tim gave a start, scowled like a fiend, and picked up an axe.

It was Fritz grinding out "Sweet Violets" upon an accordion.

"Thunder an' lightnin', d'ye hear that?" gasped the old sailor, fairly turning white in the face with rage, for whenever Fritz wanted to anger him he wailed that tune upon his instrument.

"He is only doing that to get you mad," laughed Jack.

"By the horned spoon, he won't do it no more, then, for I'm a-goin' ter smash that ring-tailed old music box ter drift wood!"

And with blood in his eye Tim stumped over to the door, and flinging it open with a bang, he yelled:

"Stow yerself in a seam in ther deck, blast yer old sauerkraut hide! I'm a-goin' ter foul yer riggin', by thunder!"

But Fritz would not stow worth a cent.

He simply uttered a hoarse chuckle, and seated upon the table, he turned his tune into a rattling sailor's hornpipe, for he was an expert player on the instrument he handled.

Tim paused, and dropped the axe.

A change came over his rugged, weather-beaten face, for the scowl vanished, and a good-natured grin was substituted.

"Gosh!" he gasped, as he began to beat time with his wooden leg, "I thought as yer wuz a-playin' somethin' else, lad."

"Nix for Shosef," answered Fritz. "Vy yer don't tance vonct?"

"Gy gum, that 'ere music seems ter be felt even in my wooden leg, an' shiver me if I ain't got ter hop! Hooray! Clar ther track, Fritzzy, fer ther double-decked ole cyclone from Sag Harbor. Yer kin swab my sister's cat tail if I ain't a-goin' ter throw a step or two."

And with a yell of delight, away hopped Tim with his good leg and wooden leg welting the floor in a hornpipe he used to dance in his youth, but which now looked like the prancing of a cow on a hot stove.

The accordion wheezed, rattled and groaned away, and Fritz roared out different orders until the old sailor was almost ready to sink with exhaustion, as he made his legs fly.

But just then there came a sudden interruption, in the form of a cry of alarm in the other room from Jack.

"Hey! Tim, come in here!" he shouted.

Instantly the dancing and music stopped, and with looks of alarm depicted upon their faces, the two ran into the pilot house, where Jack stood navigating the boat.

"Wot's ther matter, lad?" demanded the old sailor breathlessly.

"Just look out in the water there," replied the boy.

A most curious phenomenon was going on.

Every fish that came near the boat suddenly gave a convulsive start, turned over, and began lashing the water, as if maddened.

Tim gaped out of the window in astonishment, and laying his hands against the metal frame, he was about to pass a comment, when a yell pealed from his lips.



The next instant he fell to the floor, as if stricken by a blow.

"Och du lieber!" roared Fritz. "Vot's der medder—huh?"

He grasped a steel upright, and was about to bend over his prostrate friend when he, too, uttered a howl, his legs shot up in the air, and, turning a double somersault, he landed on his back, yelling for help at the top of his voice. Jack was amazed.

He glanced at the two curiously, and then around at the boat.

For the first time he noticed a crackling and snapping noise, and saw that innumerable little blue sparks were snapping all over the metallic work of the Sea Spider.

Then the truth suddenly dawned upon his mind.

"The whole boat is electrified!" he muttered.

The terrible significance of this remark may be appreciated when it is understood that he was entombed within a veritable volcano, for no matter what part of the boat with which he came in contact that was a conductor of electricity he was sure to get an awful shock.

It became manifest at once that there was a leak of the fluid somewhere that kept charging the boat, and he hastily fastened the wheel and made his way to the battery room.

A hasty examination failed to reveal the cause of the trouble, and he then made his way into the engine room, where the dynamo was working at full power.

There he saw the cause of the mischief.

One of the thick copper wires had become detached from a binding post and lay against the metal floor, discharging the electric fluid into the boat, which in turn communicated it to the surrounding water, killing the fishes.

He instantly stopped the dynamo, and putting on a rubber glove to insulate his hand, he returned the wire to its place.

Having remedied the mischief, he returned to the pilot house, and there found Tim and Fritz struggling on the floor accusing each other of having perpetrated a practical joke.

The boy explained what caused the trouble, and they then arose and resumed their duties.

On the following day a most singular accident occurred.

The boat was under water, and they were coasting within a few miles of the harbor of Cape Blanco, off the Great Sahara Desert, when Fritz, who was on duty, yelled:

"Shack! Shack! Rocks ahead!"

The boy rushed into the pilot house just as the Dutch boy turned the lever to let the water out of the forward rooms, and let the air in, in order to raise the boat.

There was no time to stop the boat from smashing into a heap of ugly, black rocks that arose ahead of them, so Fritz quick-wittedly resolved to drive the boat upward in an effort to skim over the tops of them.

The barrier ahead was so broad that it would have been a sheer impossibility to have even turned the boat around without striking, for they had run into a basin formed by the slimy stone, each arm of which arose on either side of them.

Moreover, there was full power on the machinery, and the boat had very swift headway.

"Keep her going, Fritz!" exclaimed the boy. "You can't do any better."

Like an arrow the Sea Spider curved up and shot toward the surface, the long sharp ram on her cut-water cleaving the brine like a dagger, and she passed over the top of the rocks, her keel grazing them with a grating noise that made them shiver.

On she fled, swiftly, toward the surface, and just as she came within a few feet of the top the quick eyes of Jack descried a dark object floating in the water athwart their course.

"Look out!" he gasped. "It's the hull of a ship!"

The Dutch boy spun the wheel around in an effort to avoid the barrier, but he was not quick enough.

There came a violent shock and a fearful crash.

The ram struck the bilge of the ship abaft of the midship section, and so great was the momentum of the Sea Spider that she drove her formidable weapon into the vessel up to the very bow.

A large hole was stove in the ship, and the Sea Spider came to a pause, unable to go ahead, and Jack cried:

"Reverse your lever and withdraw the ram!"

Fritz did so, and although the propellers furiously beat the water, she could not drag her ram out of the stout wooden planks of the ship, so firmly in was it thrust.

Linked together, the two collided vessels drifted along and

Jack saw that no planks were stove in the ship save the round opening into which the ram was punched.

Consequently, the ship made no water and could not sink, for the Sea Spider buoyed herself up and did not drag the boat under any by its weight.

It was a serious predicament, for it rendered the Sea Spider helpless, although the ship could navigate, and having a full head of canvas up, it was heading for Cape Blanco, dragging Jack's boat with it.

How to extricate themselves the boy did not know, and they readily imagined what fright and consternation the crew of the ship must have undergone upon receiving such an awful shock and seeing the steel ram projecting into the hold of their vessel from beneath.

The ship dragged them into port, ultimately, and came to anchor so that the crew might ascertain the cause of the peculiar accident that had occurred to them.

## CHAPTER XII.

### LOST UNDER THE SEA.

The impaled ship came to an anchor within a land-locked harbor, and Jack went out on the deck of the Sea Spider in a diving suit.

The limpid water was so clear and transparent he could almost see the entire hull of the ship above him.

He went up to the boat and drew himself to the surface by its rudder, from whence he had a clear view of everything around him.

The boat was one of a fleet of turtle fishers of that region, which came from the island of Arquin, and the crew was composed of a mixed crowd of Arabians and native blacks, all of whom were on the deck of the vessel, excitedly discussing the accident.

The boat was shaped like a felucca, with an enormous lateen sail made of matting stretched upon huge bamboo poles.

People from other boats had come aboard, and they and the captain were peering down at the dim outlines of the Sea Spider faintly to be discerned below.

Jack could not understand what the men were saying, but he comprehended by their gestures that they were amazed at the boat, and imagined it was a monstrous fish.

On shore there was a small settlement of "swish" or mud huts, thatched with rushes, and having the walls neatly whitewashed, numbers of Fanti and Kroomen negroes, Arabs, Dutchmen and Portuguese living there.

Cape Blanco was the starting place for Timbuctoo in the Soudan, by the trail crossing the Oasis of Hoden in the Sahara, and also for Nun, in Morocco, by going along the coast of Sahel.

It was therefore an important station which accounted for its mixed population of traders and turtle fishermen.

Jack took in the scene at a glance, and might have gone down to the Sea Spider again had not an unforeseen event transpired to prevent him doing so.

One of the crew of the boat had seen him suddenly come up from the sea like some strange fish.

The man kept still about the discovery, and stole across the deck to the spot directly over Jack's head.

He held a rope in his hand, and making a slip noose in the end of it, he dropped it down upon Jack's shoulders as dexterously as a Texan cowboy could have lassoed a steer.

Pulling the rope taut, the noose caught Jack around the neck of his helmet, and the man hauled him up by the head.

The boy was startled and alarmed upon finding himself thus made a captive, and ere he could do anything to save himself from capture the man landed him on the deck, gave a wild yell, and attracted every one's attention.

"See what a strange fish I have caught!" he cried, in Arabic.

Every one came crowding around, curiously, and stared at Jack's recumbent figure in amazement for a moment.

The boy thereupon arose to his feet.

This action startled the turtle fishers, for they never before had seen a human being clad in a diver's costume, and when the, to them, queer metallic object assumed the appearance of a man, they became filled with superstitious dread, and falling upon their knees all around Jack, they bowed their heads to the deck.

"Is it a man of the sea?" cried one.

"Nav. nay—it's a devil!" averred another.



"'Twas he who drove that spike into our vessel," said the third.

"And now he has come to kill us!" added still another.

The rest of the crowd groaned dismally.

Jack flung off the rope that captured him and smiled as he saw in what superstitious dread they held him.

"I say!" he shouted through the mouthpiece of his audiophone, "can any of you fellows speak English?"

None of the men understood him.

The sound of his voice startled them, and some had the boldness to glance up at his wet, glittering, metallic scales for an instant; but they shuddered at the singular talking monster, and covered their eyes with their hands again to shut out the terrifying sight.

Jack then addressed them in French, German and Spanish, all of which languages he spoke fluently, but even in this attempt he failed to get up a conversation.

It disgusted him.

He tapped the captain on the arm.

"Say, old chap, come with me," said he, beckoning to him.

He then made his way down below, and the moment he was gone the rest arose and hid themselves about the vessel.

Jack wanted to see how the prow of the Sea Spider was wedged into the felucca, and his wish was now gratified.

He beheld the long, sharp ram thrust through the planks at an angle, into the hold, and firmly wedged there.

The captain pointed at it and said something to Jack which he did not understand, and the boy drew a small bottle from his pocket.

He then observed some tools in a box, and picking up a hammer, some nails and a piece of board, he motioned to the captain.

As soon as the officer was looking at him he signaled by gestures that the captain was to nail the board over the aperture made by the ram.

It occupied some time to make the man understand what he meant, and then laying the things down, Jack knelt beside the ram.

Uncorking the glass stopper from the bottle, the boy carefully poured the liquid contents on the wood around the ram and then watched it.

The powerful acid ate a circle in the wood around the ram rapidly, rotting the planking through to the water.

As soon as this was done, the ram began to retreat, as the weight of the boat pulled it out, and in an instant it vanished.

Water began to spurt up through the hole it left and fill the boat, but the captain, now realizing what Jack meant, seized the board, hammer and nails and began to cover the aperture.

Jack thereupon left the hold and returned to the deck, when the crew began to open fire upon him from all sides, with pistols.

A shower of bullets struck the armor worn by the boy with loud, metallic jingles; but they failed to penetrate, for the armor was made so strongly that it easily resisted the bullets.

There was one vulnerable spot, though, namely, the glass visor in the helmet, and any one of the bullets might have hit it, gone through, and killed him upon the spot.

The boy realized this.

Considering flight safer than fight, he fled.

Springing upon the bulwarks, he was about to leap into the water, when a second volley reached him.

He paused, and glancing at the men, he saw that they were all grouped in a bunch now, up forward.

The boy had no weapon of any kind.

As an experiment, however, he turned on the electric current he carried, and flashed a powerful streak of light in the faces of his opponents from the dazzling lantern upon his helmet.

It was broad daylight, yet the strong glare fairly blinded the men for a few moments, and taking advantage of their alarm, Jack dove overboard and disappeared beneath the water.

Down he went like a stone to the bottom, twenty feet below, but to his alarm he saw no signs of the Sea Spider, for upon being released, she had gone rapidly away.

The boy was dismayed, for, after searching all around, he could find no trace of the submarine boat anywhere.

"What has become of them?" cogitated the boy. "It can't be possible that they have gone away and deserted me, can it?"

What to do he did not know, for within a short time the

air that had been compressed in his haversack would all be consumed, and he must rise to the surface and open his visor, or die of strangulation.

Jack resumed the search.

Unfortunately, he wandered away and soon lost himself.

He had no compass to guide himself, and knew not in what direction to turn in order to get back to the shore.

He did not dare to abandon his weights yet, either, for if he once cast them off, he would rise, but could not sink again.

When the truth dawned upon him that he was lost, a chill of horror shot over him, for, heavily burdened as he was by his suit, he knew very well that he could not swim on the surface.

His electric lamp illuminated the ghastly scene and showed him that he was wandering through a patch of long, waving eel grass, that arose as high as his arm-pits, and impeded his movements, for the tough, sinuous vines wrapped themselves around him, tripped him, retarded his progress, and hid the scene ahead of him.

The lost boy began to flounder helplessly around, trying hard to extricate himself, when suddenly two enormous black bodies shot from the pale-green gloom and came swimming toward him.

Jack glanced at them in horror.

"A pair of bottle-nosed sharks!" he gasped.

The small, evil, twinkling eyes of the man-eaters of the deep were fixed upon Jack with a malignant expression, and with a sinking heart he gave himself up for lost.

"Unarmed, how can I cope with them?" he groaned.

He sank tremblingly back in the seaweed and grass, and fastening a despairing glance upon the sharks, he awaited their attack, almost assured that his doom was sealed.

It was not long in coming.

The pair of sharks both made a dash for him, side by side, and as they came within a few feet of Jack they rolled over, showing a pair of white, ghastly bellies, and their enormous mouths bristling with hideous teeth ready agape to snap him in two.

"This is the end of me!" groaned the boy, with a shudder of horror.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### FIGHTING THE MAN-EATERS.

Jack let himself fall flat on the ground, and in so doing the electric wire attached to his lantern broke and came in contact with the metallic suit he wore, charging it with electricity.

As the two sharks shot by, their bodies grazed him, and they both received an electric current that made them writhe.

With a loud snap their jaws came together, and they furiously lashed the water and passed on.

The man-eaters frequently came in contact with torpedoes and gymnotus, electric fish that carry batteries as strong as the one Jack had, and probably imagined the boy was one of their ilk.

Only a short space of time passed when they came back, and as Jack was without a light he could not see them.

It seemed then as if he would perish, for the sharks plainly saw him, and they made another dash for him.

But just then an interruption came in the shape of a fearful glare of light that blinded them and caused the cannibals to swim around and around the boy, in circles.

"The Sea Spider's searchlight!" gasped Jack, as a thrill of delight passed over him. "They must see me."

"Jack! Jack!" came the voice of Tim.

"Help!" cried the boy, running toward the boat.

"Look out, dem sharks vhas after you!" yelled Fritz.

Jack glanced over his shoulder and saw the ravenous creatures in hot pursuit of him, and then he tripped over a rock and fell prostrate, the sharks swooping down upon him at full speed.

"Fire at them!" he shouted frantically.

Bang! Bang! came two smothered explosions, and the balls tore through the water from the two slit rubber openings through which Tim and Fritz discharged their weapons.

Each one of the creatures was hit, but not mortally wounded.

Tim aimed the boat at one of them and drove the ram into its body, impaling it so it could not move, and Fritz,



seeing that Jack was unarmed, thrust a large dagger out through one of the openings in the rubber, and cried:

"Take dot, und I vill come out by you alretty."

Jack grasped the knife as the boat came to a pause and moved the lantern wire from his clothing, as he, too, felt some of the electricity despite the fact that the armor was padded.

The remaining shark was a pugnacious creature, for no sooner was its mate impaled when it darted at the boat, turned over on its back and attempted to bite the steel hull.

In this endeavor it was unsuccessful, of course, and although it attacked the boat again and again, it failed to do any injury.

Then it turned its attention upon Jack, and went for him.

The dauntless boy stood his ground, and having thrust the blade of the long dagger in its haft, he presented it toward the oncoming shark, and kept his finger upon the spring.

He had the electric wire attached to his suit fastened to the end of the insulated rubber handle, and as the shark came up to the boy's extended hand he pressed the spring.

Out shot the blade and pierced the shark's head with an electric current that almost killed the monster.

It drew back, withdrawing the blade of its own accord, and plunged at it again with the same result, its blood dyeing the water so crimson that Jack could scarcely see the expiring thing.

A terrific gash was cut in its body.

Just then Fritz appeared in costume and came to Jack's aid with a short-handled axe, with which he soon dispatched the shark and ended the life of the one that was impaled.

He also withdrew it from the ram.

A rushing noise all around Jack caused him to turn his glance from Fritz, and his blood fairly ran cold as he saw that the blood of the two monsters he had just killed had been scented by a dozen more sharks and attracted them to the spot.

This was too much for Jack, and he cried:

"Run! Run for your life, or we will be devoured!"

Away went the frightened young Dutchman, and they both dashed into the sea door of the submarine boat and closed it just as the sharks were coming in after them.

The water was pumped out of the closet when they got in it, and they ascended the stairs and took off their suits.

They entered the pilot house a moment afterward.

The Sea Spider went on till darkness fell, and then came to the surface off the coast of Senegambia, along which she ran with the Cape Verdi Islands to the eastward.

A run of 800 miles followed without event, and three days later the Sea Spider was off the Grain Coast of Liberia.

Within three days more they would reach the Gulf of Guinea, for which they were bound, to commence their search for the wrecks of the old Spanish galleons.

Unfortunately, however, a serious accident occurred to mar the even tenor of the trip.

The boat had just turned a jutting strip of land pretty close to the shore, late in the afternoon, when the fierce undertow caught it, and ere Jack was aware of their danger, they were swept into the high surf.

The boy made a hasty and desperate effort to drive the boat out into deep water again, but he was too late.

A monstrous breaker caught the Sea Spider, and, lifting it high in the air, it rushed in shoreward, and hurled the boat far up on the sandy beach.

The shock stunned the three adventurers and broke a great many things, and when they recovered and viewed the situation, they saw that it would be a most difficult task to get the boat into the water again.

They were literally cast ashore!

#### CHAPTER XIV.

##### AN ENCOUNTER WITH TWO LIONS.

"Stranded!" exclaimed Jack in disgust, as he and his two friends went up through the trap in the deck and glanced around.

A short distance in back of the beach was a dense jungle of tall grass, bushes and trees, among which many stately palms upreared their crested heads, banana trees hung their mellow fruit over a gurgling brook of fresh water, and the vine-entwined foliage ateemed with birds of gay plumage and game of all kinds roamed about.

They decided to lay a plan, for the hunting was so good that they all were anxious to go for the abundant game.

Accordingly, they armed themselves and sallied out.

The first day's sport more than recompensed them for their trouble, for they secured enough fresh meat and fruit to stock the larder of the Sea Spider for a month.

The next day was spent at filling the water casks from the brook, and on the third day they went on an exploring expedition, armed to the teeth in event of any danger.

Directly in back of the beach was a high hill, on the crest of which a lake was impounded by a mass of fallen logs, from over which the brook came down.

"If those logs were to break loose," said Jack, pointing at them, and the water should rush down upon us while we are outside of the boat, it would drown us and carry our bodies out to the sea in an unguarded moment."

The barrier that held the lake back was very fragile, for the water-logged tree trunks, vines and shrubs were so rotten that but very little violence would be required to break it.

As they stood looking at the water there came a terrible shriek up in the tree in back of them, and the next moment down on Tim's head dropped a young monkey from the branches.

It was shrilly howling, and making desperate efforts to dislodge a large green parrot from its back, where the talons of the bird clung with a tenacious clutch, while with its sharp beak it bit with all its might on the monkey's tail.

Hoarse, guttural cries emanated from the mouth of the parrot, that blended horribly with the squeaking of the monkey, and they fell to the ground between the adventurers and began a fierce tussle, in which the monkey's fur and the parrot's feathers began to fly in all directions.

"Shiver me!" gasped Tim, in amazement. "D'yer see that?"

"Catch dem! Catch dem!" shouted Fritz.

So intent were the monkey and parrot on their fight that they paid no heed to the human beings until the Dutchman and the sailor swooped down upon them.

Then they separated.

As Fritz grasped the parrot, it fastened its beak in his finger and drew blood, and the monkey began to kick and scratch Tim until his hands were mapped and mangled.

Jack roared with laughter at the antics of his friends, as they struggled to keep possession of their respective prizes, but the sailor and the Dutchman were determined to succeed, and finally gained the mastery of the vicious creatures.

Tim then dropped to the ground, and held up his good leg.

"Take off my boot!" he implored.

Jack pulled it off, and Tim then jammed the monkey into it head first, and closed the top with his hat.

"Thar, ye leetle lubber!" he exclaimed angrily, as he shook the struggling monkey in the boot. "I've got yer stowed away safe enough now, an' gol durn my skin if I don't anchor yer aboard ther boat with a cable as 'll hold yer forever."

Fritz had succeeded in getting the parrot in his pocket, and they then descended the hill to make a detour of the base, when they entered an open glen.

Jack was going on in advance, and his mind was busily thinking out a means of getting the boat afloat, when suddenly, and without warning, a tremendous figure leaped out of the undergrowth and struck him.

Hit squarely in the breast, the boy was knocked spinning into the glen, and a cry of pain escaped him.

It was echoed by a thunderous roar that made the jungle ring, and sent a thrill of fear over him.

He cast one frightened glance at the creature, and saw, to his dismay, that it was a huge male lion.

"Tim! Fritz! Help!" he shrieked.

Tim and Fritz were half paralyzed with fear, but Jack's appealing cry aroused them.

"Fire at the beast!" shouted the boy desperately, as he drew both revolvers and sat up facing it.

Another thunderous roar pealed from the lion, and just as they all fired upon it it leaped for Jack again.

As quick as a flash the boy rolled over.

The wounded beast alighted beside him upon the same spot he had just occupied, growling and gnashing its teeth with pain from its wounds.

Again Jack aimed his two revolvers.

Crack! Crack!

Crack! Crack!



The four shots pealed out together, and every one hit the beast, knocking it over roaring upon the ground.

Up sprang Jack to his feet.

Again and again he fired at the snarling and writhing beast until every chamber of his revolver was emptied.

By the time he had discharged every shot the lion lay dead and quivering at his feet.

A great sigh of relief burst from the boy, and he cried:

"That settles it—the beast is gone!"

"Aye, now," yelled Tim, "but here's its messmate."

As he spoke there dashed into the glen the mate of the lion, a maneless creature, with a massive, lithe and active body of tawny brown, sniffing the air and roaring again and again, as it balefully glared at the three.

It bounded over to the corpse and circled around and around it, sniffing at its wounds and licking them, while a low, whining cry kept peeling from its ugly-looking mouth, as our friends retreated.

Then it suddenly turned upon the adventurers.

It seemed to realize that its mate was dead, and evidently blamed the three for the deed, for it rushed after them with flying leaps which bid fair to soon overtake them, when they turned and fired upon her.

The lioness paused with her head in the air.

An awful yell pealed from her foam-flecked lips, she staggered blindly a moment, and then fell dead with a ball in her brain from Jack's rifle.

They started back for the boat, glad to yet be living.

Within a few minutes they burst from the shrubbery upon the sandy shore, and were just about to go ahead toward the boat when they were brought to a pause by a thrilling sight.

The boat and shore all around it was swarming with nearly naked, armed negroes, who were doubtless hostile savages with whom they were bound to have trouble.

## CHAPTER XV.

### THE SAVAGES RELEASE A FLOOD.

The natives in possession of the boat were a band of Sereres who inhabit the seaboard of Senegambia and upper part of Liberia.

They were tall, robust fellows, with black and glossy skin, flat noses, thick lips, fat bellies, harsh features, and were tattooed all over.

Most of them were fetichists, treacherous, warlike, fond of plunder and fanatical in their superstitious religion.

Having investigated the interior of the boat and found it contained many things of great value in their eyes, they were holding a consultation upon what division they would make of the spoils when our friends appeared.

"The boat's in possession of the savages!" said Jack, agast.

"Ay, now, here is a pickle!" groaned Tim.

"By attacking them with a rush and a bluster we might scare them away long enough to give us a chance to get aboard," said Jack. "Will you risk it, boys?"

"Lead on—we'll folly yer," said Tim.

A moment later the three made a rush for the boat, yelling at the top of their voices, and firing off their weapons as they ran, which attracted the savages' attention.

Down from the boat sprang the men who were upon it, and, startled and alarmed, they flew into the woods, leaving the three adventurers masters of the situation.

His ruse successful, Jack led his friends on board the boat, and they entered the pilot-house and pulled the steel shutters over the windows to protect the glass.

Then they indulged in a hearty laugh.

"The negroes were scared, thoroughly frightened," said Jack.

"An' no wonder," laughed Tim. "We made noise enough to wake the dead, an' this blamed monkey in the boat howlin' like mad, too."

"The savages may remain a while," said Jack, "but they can't stay here forever; so all we need do is to have patience, and in due time they will go away and we can then escape. In the meantime, you, Tim, keep a lookout at the deadlights on the port side, and Fritz can take the starboard, while I go aft."

"Ay, now, but first let me get a bit of line an' make fast to this monkey so I can get on my walkin' tackle."

He fished the little red monkey out of the boat, and the ugly little wretch fastened its teeth in his arm.

Securing it with a piece of string he took up his station and passed the time fooling with it and alternately peering out the barred and netted window in search of foes.

Jack stationed himself at the gun window, aft, from whence he had an uninterrupted view of the woods in the back.

Among the boabab trees, the diameter of which was 35 feet, he saw the negroes lurking, while the gigantic mam-patas, growing 100 feet high, hid scores of them in their dense foliage.

The thickets and brushwood hid numbers of lurking forms at the approach of which marabout stalks, partridge, quail and guinea fowl started up with frightened cries and flew away. Mango, mimosa, gonate, figs, orange, pomegranate and cocoas sheltered many of the blacks, and they sneaked among the tiamanol, dimbguton and other edible fruit trees.

Here and there herds of antelope and gazelles sprang away in affright, crocodiles swam like logs at the mouth of the stream, hedgehogs, marmots and porcupines fled, and ugly chimpanzees nimbly disappeared, terrified at their approach.

The negroes were excitedly yelling to each other, and then they sent a shower of spears and arrows flying at the boat.

The poisoned darts broke like match splints against the flinty plates, and the savages became emboldened and sallied out.

Shower after shower of weapons was flung at the Sea Spider, and several hours passed by without any injury being done.

The negroes met with no response.

Encouraged at this they began to surround the boat, carrying loads of fagots which they heaped about it with the intention of burning the adventurers out.

Jack's patience gave out.

"I'll give them a send-off they won't like if they try any such tricks as that upon me," he muttered.

And attaching a bright, copper wire to the poles of a battery he flung the other end out of a window he opened.

The African savages love wire better than anything else, and they at once seized it and made an effort to pull it out.

Fully fifty men had hold of the wire.

"Tim, pull around lever No. 7!" shouted Jack.

The old sailor did so, and a current passed into the wire.

A terrific uproar arose among the savages.

The began to dance and yell, unable to let go the wire as the electric current shot into them, and within a few moments the whole crowd was so convulsed and terrified that they rolled and kicked, jabbering and struggling, and the ones who did not have hold of the wire became so scared they ran away.

They firmly believed that the inmates of the boat had bewitched their companions, and anxiously took out their fetiches and began to adjure them to give protection against all danger.

Jack and his friends enjoyed the discomfort of the savages for some time, and then stopped the current.

"We have given them fright enough," said the boy, "and now we can afford to let them go, eh, boys?"

"Ay, ay," chuckled Tim; "an' I allow as they'll give us a wide berth in future, gosh hang their ugly mugs!"

No sooner were the savages released when they fled in all directions, and Jack procured a spyglass and watched them.

Up the hill they went, tearing through the jungle, and not one of them paused until he reached the lake at the summit.

There they were in plain sight, and Jack saw them hold a consultation and point down at the boat.

Then they all vanished.

"It looks as if they have gone," remarked the boy.

"'Twon't do 'em no good ter stay," said Tim. "Them 'ere weapings wot they've got ain't no good while we're aboard o' this craft."

Fritz had been glancing keenly up at the lake, and now cried:

"Shiminey Christmas, looker dot!"

"What's the matter now?" asked Jack.

"Don'd yer see dem?"

"The savages have come into sight again."

"Yah, und dey vas proken dot berrier down mit a tree."

"As soon as that water in the lake bursts through the dam it will come rushing down upon us. The blacks design to drown us."



A sullen roar up at the lake interrupted Jack, for the logs were loosened and were giving way before the water pressure.

Indeed, a moment later the entire barrier broke away and a vast volume of the pent-up water came roaring down the hill, bursting out of the opening made by the savages.

The seething, hissing mass of water rushed along like a boiling, frothy avalanche, and swooped down upon the boat.

There came a frightful shock as it struck the Sea Spider.

Struck by the flood, the Sea Spider was swept from the sandy shore into the surf, and carried far out to sea ere she recovered from the effect of the released water.

She soon righted herself and floated upon a level keel, however, when our friends recovered themselves.

They hastily examined everything, and upon finding that no damage was done beyond the loss of the searchlight, they were all inexpressibly delighted at the termination of the matter.

Within two days more they reached the coast of Guinea, and now began to keep a sharp lookout for the cloven, volcanic island, the bearings of which Jack had outlined upon a map.

The Alpha and Omega were reported to have founded about a league to the seaward of the island and directly in a line with it.

Toward the fall of night the boy examined his maps and found that the island he was in quest of was situated at a point of longitude 80 degrees and latitude 2, close upon the equator.

It laid between Prince's and St. Thomas' Islands, below the slave coast, and one more day's travel would bring them to the spot.

The boy felt anxious, nervous and excited, for he was soon to ascertain whether the work he had so long been engaged upon with his father had been in vain or not.

The boat went on all that night, all the next day, and when night again engulfed the ocean they came in sight of the island they were searching for.

It was a small strip of ground, with a mountain upon it, cleft in two at the summit, with smoke emanating from the crater of an active volcano at the top.

"There is our landmark!" joyfully said Jack, pointing at it, "and now, as we are a league to seaward of it, let us go down and see what we can find, my friends."

And moving a lever, Jack sent the Sea Spider to the bottom of the sea on its quest of gold; and after a long search found the hulls of two galleons deep in the sand.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE SHIP OWNER.

The Sea Spider came to anchor that night, and the three adventurers attired in their diving suits went aboard the wrecks.

The blasting bomb which released the ram of the Sea Spider from the rocks had laid bare all of the sternmost quarters of the two treasure galleons.

Rocks, sand and mud which had been covering them were scattered by explosion, and left the half-rotten barnacle-covered hulls easy of access to the divers.

Although several centuries had passed by since the Alpha and Omega foundered off the cloven isle, the debris that collected around them by the action of the tides had served to preserve the massive timbers from quick decay.

Indeed, when our friends went through one of the stern windows of one of the boats, they found that the wood inside was amply strong to hold them without breaking.

A quick search revealed the treasure.

Down in the hold were stored heaps of massive, iron-bound strong boxes, covered with sand, rust and slime, and they were filled to overflowing with golden coins of ancient date.

Of course, the submarine boat was incapable of holding more than a quarter of the money and navigate, so they hit upon the expedient of marking the spot with a buoy and carrying the gold to the volcanic island, where they could secrete it until they could come back and get it to civilization.

As soon as the Sea Spider was laden with as much of the gold as she could carry, they prepared a white-painted keg, with an anchor, and ascended with the boat.

The buoy was left to mark the spot, and the boat started in toward the volcanic island.

They reached the shore within ten minutes, and found it to be a barren, desolate waste of rocks and sand.

Jack headed the Sea Spider for a tiny cove, and ran the boat in, when suddenly he was startled by the sight of a small coasting vessel apparently anchored under the lee of a jagged, frowning heap of rocks.

They glided up to it and found that the boat was wedged in some rocks with a hole stove in her bow.

"So much the better for us, then," said Jack. "If we can repair her, she can be laden with the biggest part of the gold, and we can carry the rest, and tow her to some port where the treasure can be sold. That will save us the trouble of making several trips to this island."

They went up to the wreck and boarded her.

She was not an old boat.

Moreover, they saw that if they could drag her from the rocks and patch her up she would just suit their needs.

"There is fully a week's work to be done upon her," said Jack; "but we can manage it if we succeed in floating her ashore."

"Aye, lad," assented Tim. "I'm right handy with carpenter's tools myself, an' am sure as we kin do ther job as neat's a pin."

"Den ve bull her off de rocks mit de Sea Spider," suggested Fritz.

"Just what I was going to advise," assented Jack.

They made the hawser fast to the wreck, and securing the other end to the Sea Spider they started the submarine boat at full speed, and kept at it till the cable was pulled taut.

She strained and tugged at the line, but the boat was wedged in the rocks so firmly that it would not budge.

Instead there sounded a sharp report like a pistol shot.

"The hawser has parted!" exclaimed Jack.

"Stop ther boat, or she'll run ashore!" Tim shouted.

Jack just complied in time to save the boat.

"We will have to blast it out as we did the Sea Spider," said Jack. "She is too firmly wedged in the rocks to pull her out."

There was nothing on board of the wreck, for when the crew abandoned it they had taken everything away, so our friends knew that weight was not holding the boat back.

They ran up to the rock, and Jack planted a bomb there with an electric wire attached to it, with which the rock was successfully blasted, and they then pulled the boat away.

The tide was high, fortunately, when they pulled her shoreward, and pushed her along with the Sea Spider till she grounded.

Then they laid to and waited for the tide to change.

As soon as the vessel laid high and dry they began to work on her, and, as Jack predicted, were kept busy a week before she was in fit condition to float safely.

Then they towed her out to their white buoy, and anchoring her to it they stored the Sea Spider's cargo on board of her.

Once more they went under the sea.

There the work of loading the Sea Spider was resumed, and bringing the gold to the surface, they stored it on the patched wreck with the first load.

Another week slipped by.

At the expiration of that time both galleons were stripped of their treasures, which were stowed on the wreck and on the Sea Spider for transportation to civilization.

Our friends were delighted when their work was finished.

"We will start now," said Jack, late one afternoon. "We have a good stout towing cable rove, and by coasting along we will soon reach a port at which we can sell our cargo, convert it into bills of exchange, and then start for home."

"We may run afoul o' some trouble, though, afore we makes port," said Tim seriously, "fer I've noticed as we're been watched."

"Watched? By whom?" queried Jack nervously.

"Ther crew o' a ship. Werry likely a pirate."

"Why, are there pirates around here, Tim?"

"Pirates? Why, good Lor', lad, ther Gold Coast o' Guinea is allers a-swarmin' wi' ther blasted lubbers, which is ferever on ther lookout ter try an' run down ther traders wot gits gold dust from ther savages in exchange fer their cargoes."

"And has such a craft been near us?"

"Aye, aye, fer more'n two days I've seen a suspicious vessel a-hoverin' about off thar ter ther wind'ard, an' a-creepin' alongshore as sly as a pickarel in fresh water."

Jack began to feel uneasy at this unwelcome news, but he said nothing and started his boat.

The Sea Spider had no trouble to tow the richly laden



wreck along, and they made, according to his self-registering log, about twelve knots an hour.

The Sea Spider remained half submerged, for she thus traveled swifter, for the water offers less resistance to a boat than the wind on the surface.

Jack noticed the vessel Tim referred to following after them, and just as the following day dawned he made up his mind to go aboard of the vessel in tow for safety's sake.

This precaution was a wise one, for just as the sun was rising the strange ship sailed up to him, and a voice shouted:

"Ship ahoy!"

"Ahoy there!" answered Jack.

A man looking like a German appeared at the bulwarks.

"Where are you going with that boat?" he demanded.

"That's none of your business," retorted Jack tartly.

"Yes, it is. The craft belongs to me. She ran on the rocks at a volcanic island, and we abandoned her to get this vessel and go back and get her off. Now, you have stolen her!"

Jack started.

"Here's a pickle!" he gasped. "That fellow isn't a pirate after all, but he might just as well be, as he wants this craft, laden as she is with gold. What's to be done, I wonder?"

"You haul to," said the man threateningly, "and give up my boat, or we'll make it hot for you when we get aboard."

"I won't do it! You can't have the boat!" said Jack, who did not want to arouse the stranger's cupidity by telling him how that vessel was laden with treasure.

"Then we'll force it away from you!" yelled the man. "The craft belongs to me, and we'll punish you for stealing it."

"To pick up an abandoned vessel for salvage is no theft," the boy retorted, "and you can't have it till after we take it to port."

"Well, we don't intend to pay any salvage for it."

"Sell the boat to me, then."

"No. Not for any price."

"What are you going to do about it, then?"

"Take it away from you by force!"

## CHAPTER. XVII.

### ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

The ship came sailing over closer to the craft on the deck of which Jack stood, and the boy saw that there were a dozen men on her deck.

They were all armed, and looked like desperate people who would not hesitate at crime to consummate their designs.

"You won't make a bargain with me?" asked Jack.

"No. I only want my own property," came the reply.

"But there are reasons why I must refuse. When we reach some port we will pay you liberally for the use of this boat."

"I tell you again we won't make any agreement with you."

"Then you mean to fight?"

"Yes. I'll sink my boat before I let you keep it."

"Then I warn you to keep away, for we won't give it up."

"Rash boy! Don't you see my men are armed?"

"So are we, and I tell you that we will win in a fight."

"Bosh! Haul to, I tell you, or——"

But just then Jack went overboard and landed on the deck of the Sea Spider, which the others now saw for the first time, just riding above the sea's surface.

The expression they dropped showed very plainly how surprised they were at the strange-looking boat.

As soon as Jack got within the pilot-house of the Sea Spider he told his friends what had transpired.

"Shiver my toplights, but this is a rum go!" said Tim, with a glum look. "They owns ther boat, hey? Waal, now, it are hard ter rob a man o' his ship right under his werry nose, but it's got ter be did, lad, cause if they takes ther vessel, they'll git all our gold along with it."

"Plow dem oudt of de water!" said the pugnacious Fritz.

"I will if they still act unreasonably," answered Jack.

The other vessel sailed up close to the boat in tow and the crew flung over a grapnel line.

No sooner was it fast, however, when Jack cast off the towline, and dashed the Sea Spider between the two ships, cut the grapnel hawser with a knife, and circled around the treasure boat.

A yell of rage burst from the crew of the strange vessel, and they opened a gangway, displaying a twenty-pound gun.

"Confound you!" roared the skipper, "I'll sink your craft."

He aimed a gun at the Sea Spider and fired it, but the

ball passed harmlessly over the spot where the submarine boat had been floating, for Jack submerged it just in time.

When the Sea Spider arose again, the boy shouted:

"You have opened an unprovoked fight, and now you must take the consequence. I'm going to sink your ship."

"Bah! We will blow you out of the water!" retorted the other, as his men began to reload their gun.

Jack saw that unless desperate measures were taken at once, the man would injure the Sea Spider.

So he left the wheel in Tim's hands, and running aft he ordered the Sea Spider swung around.

As soon as her stern was presented to the ship the boy sighted his gas gun, and fired a shot at the upper part of the stern of the ship.

There was no sound at the discharge save a sudden shriek of the ball, as it sped to its mark.

Then it struck just below the taffrail of the ship.

A large portion of the woodwork was blown away.

This maneuver elicited a yell of terror from the crew of the other boat, and the captain and crew wildly rushed aft and examined the damage.

It was evident that the boat would not sink, but another such shot would bury it forever.

The captain saw it at a glance and yelled to Jack:

"Stop! For heaven's sake, don't fire again."

"Will you go about your business, then?"

"Yes, yes."

"Molest us no more?"

"No, I swear it!"

"Then veer off!"

"Aye, aye!"

"He's scared!" laughed Jack.

"Aye, now, and so would any one be wi' ther hull starn blowed off his craft," grimly said Tim.

The stranger was turning his vessel, while some of his men were preparing to repair the damage, when Jack cried:

"If you want your boat you can have it in one week."

"Where am I to find it?" asked the captain of the other vessel in angry tones, as he glared at the boy.

"At Morocco, in Mogador."

"I shall go there."

The ship then hastily sailed away, every one aboard of her terrified at the awful gun carried by the mysterious-looking submarine boat, and our friends were left in possession of the boat.

"Victory!" exclaimed Jack in delight.

"You want me to catch dot treasure boat?" asked Fritz, in anxious tones. "She vas drift away alretty."

"Yes, we must get her in tow again and hasten away, for the captain of that craft may make trouble for us if we don't. Now, Tim, stand by to lend Fritz a hand."

The treasure boat had drifted away some distance, and they hastened to secure the hawser again.

As soon as it was caught they made fast, and the machinery of the Sea Spider was once more put in motion, and she started on her course again.

They soon left the defeated ship, hull down, astern, and by nightfall it sunk entirely behind the horizon.

The Sea Spider then made rapid headway for its port of destination, and upon reaching the coast of Morocco, in due course of time, favored with extraordinary good weather, she made for the city of Mogador.

There was a shrine of Sidi Mogadul lying towards the south, half way to the village of Diabat, forming a striking landmark for seamen.

The harbor, although protected by a quarantine island, is extremely dangerous during a west and southwest wind, for it flings the sea about in such a manner that the seaport is almost turned into an island.

Tim had often been in this port, however, and easily piloted the boats into the harbor without danger.

There they were boarded by some Moorish officers, to whom they explained what their business was, and after some delay in the custom house, the officials of which Jack had to bribe heavily, on account of having no ship's manifest, he was allowed to go ashore to negotiate the sale of the gold.

He was informed that the Jews' quarter, called the Mellah, laid in the northeast corner of the city, and accompanied by Fritz, he made his way there.

The quaint old Moorish town, founded by the Sultan Mohammed, had fairly good houses, broad, clean streets, and but few gardens to break the barrenness of the vicinity.

Although the chief business of the place was in almonds, goat skins, gum, olive oil and ostrich feathers, there were



Jewish bankers with whom exporters did an annual business of about \$1,000,000.

They were all reliable people, and Jack soon found one to whom he bargained to sell the gold.

During the ensuing week the three adventurers were kept very busy unloading it, and when the final sale was made, and notes of exchange were taken for it indorsed by the Government, our friends found that they had a trifle over one million dollars to divide.

The vast amount of money fairly made them delirious with joy, and they spent a week ashore getting over it.

The owner of the vessel they transported the gold in came sailing into the harbor at the expiration of that time, in search of his craft.

The three adventurers were startled.

"We should have left here sooner," said Jack as they hastened down to the water. "They may make it hot for us here now."

"Den led us got on board so gwick as vas bossible," said Fritz. "I don't vant me mine het shopped off by mineselluf so soon as I got me dot money alretty."

"Keel haul me, lads, but I'm askeered as we're too late," said Tim, as they reached the waterfront. "See thar!"

He pointed at the Sea Spider, and they saw the captain they had defeated and the chief harbor official standing on the deck of the submarine boat earnestly talking.

Entering a rowboat, they bodily pulled out to the Sea Spider, however, and went upon the deck.

The defeated captain scowled at Jack balefully.

"There he is now!" said he to the port officer. "Arrest him. He stole my vessel and I'm going to fix him for it."

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### CONCLUSION.

The words of the captain showed conclusively that he meant to avenge himself upon our friends.

The port officer turned to Jack sternly.

"You are my prisoner!" he exclaimed.

"What for?" demanded the boy.

"Stealing this man's boat."

"Are explanations permitted?"

"None are wanted. The captain is an old friend of mine."

"Then we won't argue the matter."

"Of course not."

"I must, however, refuse to submit to arrest."

"Surely you are mad to do so, for revolt means death."

"Sometimes. It is now my command for you to leave my vessel."

"When we go you shall accompany us as prisoners."

"Boys!" exclaimed Jack coolly, turning to his friends.

"Ay, sir," responded Tim.

"Drive these men from my boat."

Tim and Fritz were about to obey when the captain and the port officer drew their weapons.

It looked for an instant as if there was going to be bloodshed, but Fritz settled the difficulty much easier.

Getting behind the two officers he reached out his hands, and lurching himself forward, he gave them a push.

Taken unawares the two men lost their balance and their feet sliding from under them they slid down the concave hull of the boat, and landed with a loud double splash in the water.

There they floundered about, swimming to keep themselves afloat, and yelling for help at the top of their voices.

"Good boy, Fritz!" laughed Jack. "That was well done. But see, their cries have alarmed the people on the ships and on the shore."

"Wot's ter be did, now?" queried Tim blankly. "Ther ship wot that captain came in is anchored in ther roadway wot we've got ter folly ter git out of this harbor."

"Und der grew vas bringin' over dem gunpoats, too!" exclaimed Fritz, with a frown. "By shiminy, ve vas caught by a drap und ve couldn't got ourselufs out alretty!"

"There's no cause for alarm, boys," said Jack calmly. "You seem to have forgotten that all we need do is to sink our boat and run away, under water, out of sight."

"Och, dot vas so!"

"Then come inside before any hostilities can begin, and we will let the beggars make all their preparations to blow us to glory, and then skip, laughing at them."

They went down through the trap-door, and once in the pilot-house saw the two men swimming with might and main for one of the gunboats, and yelling to every one to prevent

the escape of the strange boat, and blow it to pieces with their guns.

To remain upon the surface any longer was extremely dangerous, so Jack turned one of the levers, the air was compressed from the lower compartments into the upper, and the sea water filled the empty reservoirs.

Then down dove the Sea Spider, disappearing from the view of the astonished Moors.

The water was brackish and muddy, for a dangerous west wind was sweeping the seas in and inundated the shores, making underwater navigation very hazardous.

"There may be hidden rocks and other obstructions in our way around here that we know nothing about," said Jack, "so we will have to proceed with the utmost care to avoid danger. Tim, you steer, and I'll keep a lookout while Fritz goes below and keeps his eyes on the machinery."

Jack had a peculiarly arranged spyglass by means of which he could see through the sea water at daytime, and with this thing at his eye he kept a keen lookout, while Tim steered the boat forward.

Several masses of rocks were encountered which were easily avoided, as the Sea Spider went ahead slowly and in due time they passed the headland in safety and ran out into deep water.

Then they put as much distance as possible between themselves and the City of Mogador, shooting along the coast to the northward at the rate of twenty knots.

"Safe at last!" exclaimed Jack breathlessly, when they were out in deep water again. "We are very fortunate, boys, for our gold is all disposed of, our pockets are lined with money, and now we have accomplished what we set out to do, let us cross the Atlantic for home and friends."

"Aye, aye, lad, that we will!" cheerily assented Tim.

"Hooray for us vonct!" yelled Fritz.

"Ah-h come off!" screeched Bismarck. "Ha, ha, ha!"

Whiskers began to chatter and squeak furiously at the parrot, and our delighted friends a moment after were singing a rollicking sea song, while Fritz played it upon his accordion.

The Sea Spider dashed ahead, and, retracing her course, she once more pointed her sharp ram to the westward, and breasted the rolling Atlantic.

We will not dwell upon the trip across the ocean, for it was not marked by anything of interest or excitement save the changes in the weather.

Suffice it to say that within a week she made the voyage, and carried our gallant friends safely back to New York, when they all went ashore.

The drafts of the banker of Morocco were presented for payment at the agency in Gotham, were honored, and made payable on demand.

Jack then made a division of the money, despite the protestations of his friends, and they each received an equal share and deposited their money in banks.

Remaining a few days in New York, they once more boarded their singular vessel, and, under cover of the night, she started up the East River, homeward bound.

It was broad daylight when the Sea Spider reached the bay of Wrightstown, and rounding the headland shot in toward the village.

A sad drowning accident had occurred there, which brought all the villagers to the waterside, and their astonishment was intense when they beheld the Sea Spider.

A tremendous cheer burst from every lip as Jack went out on deck and sent the Stars and Stripes fluttering up to his masthead, for they never expected to see the boat again.

It was then Jack's intention to revolutionize Wrightstown.

In order to carry out other inventive plans he had in view, he had his old workshop torn down and a newer and more elaborate brick building put up in place of it.

By the time the boy's plans were all finished, he had one of the most elegant and complete places of its kind in the world in which he evolved many extraordinary inventions.

The boy inventor frequently used the Sea Spider after that on many pleasure trips under water in company with Tim and Fritz, but newer ideas eventually suggested themselves, and he soon began to invent other marvels of a similar nature.

And thus employed, we will leave him for the present, trusting that we may, at a near date, be enabled to meet him again with an invention that will surpass the Sea Spider and the wonders it exposed.

Next week's issue will contain "ON TIME; OR, THE YOUNG ENGINEER RIVALS."



## CURRENT NEWS

Eight officers and men of the German steamship *Liebenfels*, sunk in Charleston Harbor the night of January 31, were sentenced at Florence, S. C., recently to a year in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, and to pay a fine of \$500 each. They were convicted of sinking a vessel in a navigable stream in violation of the navigation laws.

Pauline Paul Parthenae, known as the world's champion Holstein cow, owned by R. J. Schaefer of Clayton, Wis., is dead, aged thirteen years. A post-mortem showed she had swallowed a darning needle, and that it worked its way to her heart. Two years ago the cow produced 2,888 pounds of butter in twelve months.

The National Assembly of Panama has passed a law authorizing the President of the republic to enter into an agreement with the United States for the construction of roads and railroads. Each of the two governments is to bear the expense equally. The roads, etc., constructed under this law are to be managed and maintained by a commission composed of Panamans and Americans.

"Eat plenty of sauerkraut and get lots of sleep." That's the recipe for a long life of Mrs. Anna Miller, of Lancaster, O., who celebrated her one hundredth birthday anniversary by dancing a minuet with a great-great-grandchild. Mrs. Miller was born in Germany and came here in 1830. She has lived on a farm near here for eighty-seven years. She has five children, twenty-six grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Russia's Arctic railway, known as the Murman Railway, is now complete, and the first trains have been run over it to the Murman coast, in the snow-clad and ice-bound regions of Russia's Far North. The length of the line from Petrograd to Alexandrovsk, the northern terminal, is 930 miles. The road follows the main line railway from Petrograd to Perm as far as Zvanka, 75 miles east of Petrograd, where it turns north to Soroka and Kem, both ports on the White Sea. Thence it continues northwestward via Kandalaksha, at the most westerly point of the White Sea, to Kola and Alexandrovsk.

The world's production of tea in 1915-1916 exceeded the figures of all other years recorded. India, Ceylon and Java produced 100,000,000 pounds more than in the previous year, the Indian harvest alone surpassing that of 1914-1915 by 55,550,000 pounds. Shipments from Java reached 96,000,000, an increase of 12,000,000 pounds over the previous year. Shipments from China showed a steady dim-

inution, dropping from 8,500,000 pounds in 1914-1915, to 3,300,000 last year. Though the world's consumption of tea has tripled in the last thirty years, the production of tea in China has remained almost stationary.

Flying fishes may be caught in this manner if one happens to find himself surrounded by a school of them. A variety of baits are employed in their capture—bits of red bunting, small spoon baits and artificial minnows and flies—the most taking being a large red fly and a small gilt minnow, but all the baits mentioned are effective. In following the minnow through the water the fish will open both pectoral fins and poise itself for a rush at it. Spreading the wings also has the effect of checking progress if its suspicions are aroused by a near inspection of the bait. When hooked it proves very game, taking out several yards of line in its first rush and often making a flight in the air with line and all.

A new waterproof fabric has been introduced in France and is proving very satisfactory for hospital sheetings, etc., as well as for waterproof garments. Very thin slices of cork are cut from the block by special machinery, according to the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry which describes the special process. These slices are placed in chemical baths to remove the resinous parts which make the cork more or less brittle. After this treatment the cork sheets may be folded or bent without breaking. They are then attached on both sides to layers of cloth, and the resultant material is not only very light but porous, thus providing for ventilation. It is said to be desirable in every way as waterproof fabric.

A battle royal was fought between two buck deer in Price County and both died. They left a memento of the battle in the shape of two pairs of tightly locked antlers, which were found the day following the battle by J. Lebal, a timber cruiser of Kennan. The antlers were sent to Martin Francken of De Pere, Wis., to be mounted, and he has just completed the work. While cruising the pine forest of Price County, Lebal came upon a place where the turf had been trampled. He followed the tracks and came upon the two deer with their horns firmly locked. The carcasses had been eaten as far as the shoulders by wolves, but the heads were in perfect condition. Francken says he has been mounting deer heads for eighteen years and has never seen anything like this. He found great difficulty in working, as he could not separate the antlers. The bucks were five and six years old. Lebal says the larger one threw the smaller one over its head and broke its own neck in the act.



## SIMPLE SAM

## THE POOR BOY

—OR—

## Not So Green As He Looked

BY J. P. RICHARDS

(A Serial Story)

## CHAPTER XXIV (Continued).

"Why, with my wife, of course."

"Yes, certainly! I don't suppose that anybody expects you to live separate from her. I mean where will you make your residence?"

"Right where my mother now lives," he replied. "I am going to enlarge the house, and when I get through with it, it will be one of the handsomest houses in town, and then I'll buy more land adjoining, so as to have room for a splendid lawn and flower garden."

"Well, aren't you going off on a trip?"

"Well, we may after a while, but we are happy just where we are. My wife has a good business head, and she wants to look after things with me, and make suggestions. Come down and see us."

"Thank you; I'll do so. My wife this morning asked me if I knew whether you were going off on a trip, or were going to settle down at once."

"We have settled down already," laughed Sam. "But when your wife comes down, tell her not to laugh at us, for we are behaving just now like a pair of kittens."

"All right; my wife and I have been married ten years now, and we haven't forgotten just what it is to get married. My wife is very fond of Lena and she thinks that she has the most honest, the bravest, and the most loving husband in all the world."

"Say, she didn't miss it far, eh?"

"No, I don't think she did."

"All right. I'll go back home and tell Lena what she says, and I'll wager something that she will agree with your wife. There are no words in the English language that can express the strength of my love for Lena."

"I'd bet all that I have on that," said the friend. "But say, Sam, are you going to ride the trick mule in the next circus that comes to town?"

"No; I guess not. One victory of that kind is enough for me. But I enjoyed it that time, you can bet."

A few days later Sam learned that Lena had the sympathy of all the ladies in the society of Sussex. They were quite indignant at her mother's attempt to appeal to the law to prevent her marriage and they all gloried in her spunk in hurrying off to have the knot tied before the writ could be issued.

"Mother Bradbury," said Lena, "put away your sewing now, and never take in any more, unless you wish to make some silk dresses for yourself. I had rather have you, though, go with Sam and me

to New York City and let us buy you a fine wardrobe."

The widow protested, but Lena and Sam said firmly that no more work should come into the house; that she had worked hard enough and long enough, and should now rest the balance of her life; so she took in no more work, and at last she went down to New York City with the young couple to spend a fortnight visiting the great fashion resorts, thus submitting to the will of the happy couple.

When Mrs. Heywood recovered her health sufficiently to enable her to travel, she took with her a niece and made a six months' trip to Europe.

When she returned she found Sam and Lena living in an elegant residence which was on the site of his old home, and she hardly knew it.

She had never written a line to Lena during her visit, but when she returned home, Lena went to see her and a reconciliation followed.

"Mother," said she, "I'm just the happiest wife living. My husband is supporting me. He is not using a dollar of my money, and he is the shrewdest business man in the town. People no longer call him Simple Sam, but it is Mr. Bradbury, and no woman in Sussex is as proud of her husband as I am of mine."

"Yes, dear, your father has written me many letters about him, particularly in regard to the change that seems to have come over him."

"Yes, everybody has noticed that, mother. It is the sense of responsibility that has brought it about, I believe. He is a great reader, and he reads scientific works, and with all that he grows handsomer every day. You mustn't have any hard feelings toward Sam, mother, for it was I who went straight to his house when I heard that you were going to get out an injunction to prevent our marriage, and told him to put on his best suit and go along to the parsonage with his mother and myself."

"Dear, bring him to see me. I forgive both of you."

The visits were exchanged, and Mrs. Heywood was more than pleased with her son-in-law, and that evening when her husband came home from his office, she told him about the visit and said:

"Everybody was right when they remarked that Sam wasn't as green as he looked."

THE END.

A NEW SERIAL STORY  
OUT NEXT WEEK

—ENTITLED—

OUT FOR MONEY

—OR—

A POOR BOY'S CHANCE IN A BIG CITY

By J. P. RICHARDS

Don't miss the opening chapters  
BEGINNING NEXT WEEK



# ARTICLES OF ALL KINDS

## OUR SERVICE STOPPED BY GERMANY.

Germany has stopped all mail service, both direct and indirect, between this country and the United States. Telegraph service also has been stopped.

## GOETHALS ASKED TO BUILD CARGO SHIPS.

President Wilson has written a letter to Major-General Goethals requesting him to take charge of the plan devised by the Shipping Board to construct at once a fleet of 1,000 wooden cargo steamships to break the German submarine blockade. The President lays stress upon the importance of this plan as a strategic war measure.

That General Goethals will accept the invitation is not doubted. He has just accepted from the State of New Jersey the post of Superintendent of State Highways, but he is a retired army officer and liable to a call from the country for his services.

Within a few days a bill will be presented to Congress authorizing the board to expend several hundred million dollars on the construction of these ships. The Shipping Board will point out to Congress that this is a war measure and will mean a financial loss to the government. At the termination of the war the ships would be left on the government's hands with little chance to charter them at a profit. The entire plan calls for the expenditure of \$250,000,000.

The plan contemplates that the ships shall be standardized. They will be 250 feet long and of 5,500 tons capacity. Upward of forty large yards are prepared to turn them out. It will be utterly impossible, it is contended, for the German submarines to sink more than a small portion of such a fleet.

## WOODEN SHOES COMING INTO VOGUE.

In view of the abnormal condition of the leather market not only in our own country but in every country of the world, it is with much interest that we receive the suggestion which has been made in London for solving the boot supply problem. A noted clog-maker doing a big business has recently told a representative of the London Evening News how clogs are coming more and more into vogue.

Hundreds of London school children are now wearing clogs, which cost about three shillings a pair (about seventy-three cents) and London County Council school teachers have been providing clogs for ill-shod pupils, who have been paying for them by weekly instalments of three pence.

The price of leather, states a writer in the paper mentioned, suggests that the city man of the future will clatter to business in his clogs. "For country wear one can buy an elegant pair of laced-up clogs at a quarter of the price of equally efficient boots."

Apart from the attention that they would attract, there is no reason why these should not be worn in "town." There is nothing undignified in the clog worn by the Lancashire or Yorkshire textile workers, it is pointed out, and not a few of the captains of the British textile industry have themselves worn clogs, and some at least would not be ashamed to wear them again.

The present home demand in Great Britain is so great that an order for 100,000 pairs of sabots for the Belgian government has just had to be declined by a British clog-making firm, which received an award for its clog show at a London exhibition.

## VATERLAND IS BEYOND REPAIR.

Several officers of the United States Navy made a visit recently to the German steamships tied up at Hoboken to ascertain the exact damage that was done to the machinery of the vessels by their German crews and officers immediately following the severing of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany. They were shown through the ships after considerable grumbling by the German officers, who refused to take the American officers into some parts of the engine-rooms of several of the liners.

The naval officers were able to see enough to establish beyond doubt the work of the German crews, in damaging the ships. The Vaterland, the largest ship afloat at the beginning of the war, they found had been damaged to such an extent that it is improbable that she could be repaired and her engines put in running order in this country. The driving machinery of the big ship has been knocked apart, parts of her cylinders cut away and thrown overboard, and some of her framework has been destroyed. The naval officers were inclined to believe the vessel had been so weakened that she probably would fall to pieces if attempts were made to get her out of her berth.

The German officers who showed the Americans through the Vaterland and other vessels are reported to have boasted of the damage they had done to the machinery of the ships, and to have expressed their pride in their work. All the vessels were found to have been damaged by the destruction of parts of the machinery, and particularly the smashing and cutting away of cylinders.

A marine engineer who is understood to have received reports of the damage said that the vessels whose cylinders had not been damaged might be made ready for sea in from one to three months, but that the ones in which the Germans had damaged the cylinders would require from six to nine months, for repairs, if they could be repaired at all in this country.



## TIMELY TOPICS

### SUIT MADE FROM PEAT FIBER?

A process is stated to have been perfected in Sweden for the manufacture of a strong textile material from peat fiber. The inventor, an engineer named Jegeaus, began to study this process twenty years ago, but was hampered by the fact that the manufacture was much too costly, so that he was unable to turn his ideas to any practical use. Induced by war conditions, however, he resumed his experiments, and has now succeeded in making dress materials from peat on a large scale.

The prices of these fabrics are said to be somewhat lower than those for artificial wool, and the durability great. The inventor himself and several other persons are already wearing "peat" clothing, and a factory for the working of the process is about to be erected.

### GIRLS SELL HUMAN BONES.

After a three days' city-wide search the police of Lafayette, Ind., located Anna Gray and Elsie Bushman, each nine years old, who sold human bones among a bunch of other bones and rags to Oscar Winski, a junk dealer.

The girls led the Coroner and police officials to a point on the Wabash River, where they made the gruesome find. Coroner U. F. McBride is of the opinion that the bones were not old ones and that they had been washed up on the river bank.

Mrs. John Wyorz of Oxford, whose husband disappeared from their home early in December, visited police headquarters. The bones are those of a person about 5 feet 6 inches tall, the height of her missing husband. Some are of the opinion that the bones are those of some one who was murdered and the body thrown into the river.

### SALVATION ARMY FOR WAR.

The Salvation Army has offered its brigades to the service of Uncle Sam. At a conference of the department and provincial chiefs of all districts east of the Mississippi, held at national headquarters, 122 West Fourteenth street, New York. It was agreed that the army would put its full strength into the war with Germany. At least \$50,000 is to be raised for preliminary work.

Commander Evangeline Booth made a speech extolling President Wilson's "wise patience and ceaseless searching for a means of mediation, so falsely construed as cowardice." Now that the die had been cast, Miss Booth said, it behooved every citizen of the United States to stand back of the President.

Colonel Edward Justis Parker was appointed war secretary for the army. Colonel William Evans of the Ohio, Kentucky and Southern provinces, Colonel Albert Kimball of the Michigan and Indiana prov-

inces and Colonel Adam Gifford of the New England provinces were present.

Major Jessie McKeon was appointed secretary for women's war work. Ambulance units will be arranged and rest rooms will be established at soldiers' training camps. The army's special job here, as in England, will be to keep soldiers in touch with their families.

### COMETS ONCE THOUGHT TO PORTEND GRAVE EVENTS.

Plenty of people now living will remember the enormous sensation made by the great comet of 1861, the appearance of which was believed by many to have relation to the outbreak of war between the North and South. It was certainly a "whopper." At one time its tail extended above the horizon to within a short distance of the Pole Star, so that it overspread about one-sixth of the visible heavens.

The comet of 1811 was taken by Napoleon to be a sign of the success of his contemplated invasion of Russia, though subsequent events indicated that it must have portended disaster to his own armies. It was extraordinarily bright, and astronomers have estimated that its head alone was 1,250,000 miles in diameter, while behind it extended a tail 130,000,000 miles long. This comet, if cosmic forces do not wipe it out meanwhile, will appear again in the year 4876. Most of us, unfortunately, will not be here to see it.

One of the first great comets mentioned in history was seen in western Asia, B.C. 664, when Nebuchadnezzar was on his way to the conquest of Palestine, remarks the Philadelphia Ledger. The Jews of the time regarded it as a portent of the speedy downfall of their kingdom. In the year 66 A.D., according to Josephus, a "star shaped like a sword" hung over Jerusalem for a whole year before the beginning of the great war which ended in the destruction of the city of Titus and the annihilation of the Jewish state.

Sixty-eight years later another comet appeared, just at the beginning of the great rebellion led by Bar Chochedas, which resulted in the slaughter of half a million of the Jews by the Roman armies and the complete dispersion of Israel among the nations. It is related in the history books that during the whole course of that war was to be seen the spectacle in the heavens of armies forming and laying siege to phantom cities.

It has been reckoned by astronomers that the entire tail of the comet of 1811, already mentioned, 130,000,000 miles long, might have been packed in a portmanteau of moderate size. Of course filmy substance are the tails of comets composed.



# HUSTLING JOE BROWN

—OR—

## THE BOY WHO KEPT THE TOWN ALIVE

By WILLIAM WADE

(A Serial Story)

### CHAPTER III (Continued).

The destruction of the rifle factory meant death to Reddington—temporarily, at all events.

"We go!" cried Joe. "This thing can wait!"

He turned out the lamps, and locking the door, he and Tom joined the crowd which was rushing toward the works.

Reddington was situated on the hillside, but the works were on the other side of the railroad, down in a hollow by the river's edge.

The boys chased down the long hill street with many others.

But the dwellers in the corporation houses on the flats were ahead of all the rest, and the crowd around the works was dense.

The one engine in Reddington went tearing past them, and the hose cart followed.

There was no hook and ladder in town.

But the works had their own chemicay engine and trained fire crew.

Smoke and flames were pouring out of the windows of the river wing, and it looked as if the whole big structure must surely go by the time the boys reached the foot of the hill.

"I wonder if Colonel Redding is in town?" questioned Tom, as they stood looking at the burning building, not caring to press in nearer.

They were standing by the fence on the opposite side of the street from the wing of the factory which had not yet taken fire.

Near them was a gate which led into the yard, where stood the pattern shop belonging to the works.

Joe, in fact, was leaning against the gate.

"I'm sure I don't know whether he is or not," he replied. "I saw the colonel in his automobile last week, but I hardly think the family have come up to the big house yet."

"This is the time a fellow wishes he was a fireman," said Tom. "I'd just like to be with them fellers now."

"None for mine," replied Joe. "It takes one away from business too much. Then there are the meetings; they are always scrapping. I think——"

Suddenly Joe was pushed violently forward.

The gate had been opened from within, and he was thrown against Tom.

Through the opening glided a strange figure.

It was a man all clothed in leather, with a hideously repulsive face.

"Ha! Ha!" he chuckled. "See her burn! See her burn! Would that Jim Redding was there in

that fiery furnace! But no matter! He's fixed! He's fixed! He'll roast, too!"

Thus saying, the leather-clad man shuffled across the street and joined the crowd.

### CHAPTER IV.

#### THE RESCUE OF COLONEL REDDING.

"The leather man again!" cried Tom. "I haven't seen him about town in a couple of years."

The man was one of the characters of the section of which Reddington was the center.

Who he was, or where he lived, nobody knew, but that he was a harmless lunatic all admitted.

Suddenly he would appear on Reddington's streets or elsewhere in the vicinity.

He never begged or asked for anything; in fact, as a rule he rarely spoke.

His dress was to all outward appearance composed entirely of leather.

Leather trousers, roughly sewed together, covered his legs, a leather vest, and a leather coat of equally home-made appearance did service for the rest of his body, and there was a rude leather cap upon his head.

His beard grew long, and his features were fearfully wasted.

A pair of big burning eyes stared at you out of deep, hollow sockets.

As he walked he kept muttering to himself, looking neither to the right nor the left.

The boys knew him, as did everybody else, and the mere fact of his speaking to them at all struck Joe as more than strange.

"What on earth did he mean by what he said?" Joe exclaimed. "How came he behind that gate?"

"Blest if I know," replied Tom. "This gate is supposed to be locked."

"Sure!"

"We better tell somebody."

"Tell nothing! Who has time to listen to us with the works burning up? Come on, Tom, we'll hustle for ourselves and see what it all means."

"How the leather man seemed to hate Colonel Redding," said Tom. "I don't think I ever heard such fierce bitterness as he threw into those words."

Joe, without answering, pulled the gate open.

Now this gate, in common with all others about the works, was invariably kept locked at night.

Joe felt sure that something was seriously wrong even before he opened it, and he was more than ever impressed with the fact when he saw smoke curling out of one of the lower windows of the long frame building, which served as a pattern shop for the works.

The window-sash had been thrown up from below, and as the boys ran across the yard, which was deserted, they caught sight of fire inside.

(To be continued.)



## FACTS WORTH READING

### GIVES 100 CORDS OF WOOD FOR BUSHEL OF POTATOES.

Lewis P. Knight, a lumber dealer of Naples, Me., recently gave 100 cords of wood to George McVane in exchange for a bushel of potatoes. This is the highest price yet recorded in Maine.

### MICE-CATCHING ONE OF THE DIVERSIONS IN TRENCHES.

A young officer, son of General Spingardi, former minister of war, writes that in his part of the front the trenches are overrun with mice. "We have devised," he writes, "a splendid system for catching these little pests. We cut the corner off a sack and prop it open, putting inside cheese. We hide ourselves and watch the mice entering through the hole. At the opportune moment we pull a string which suddenly closes the hole. We rush to see what a bag we have made and sometimes we have found as many as 200 tiny prisoners."

### MADE HIS OWN MONEY.

Whenever Charles E. Butler, negro, night janitor at the United States mint, San Francisco, needed a little extra change, he would go into the money press room, Federal detectives say, put a little silver into the mould and make a few half dollars. Butler was arrested by a Secret Service operative who had been detailed to find out who had been tampering with the machinery of the press.

The small quantity of silver taken was not missed, although he made money, the officers said, every night. He had been in the government service for twenty-three years.

### MEN WITH FAMILIES DEPENDENT UPON THEM MUST LEAVE THE GUARD.

Every enrolled man in the National Guard who has dependents whom he might not be able to support in time of war probably will be discharged from the service during the next few days. Orders to that effect from the War Department were received at Governor's Island and the adjutant general's office at Albany recently.

National Guard officials estimate that between 2,500 and 3,500 of the 22,000 enlisted men in the State will be affected by the order. They say that no man who has a wife, mother or children without other means of livelihood than his salary will be allowed to remain in the Guard, whether he desires to remain or not.

Company and regimental officers will begin at once to weed out such men, but every case will be carefully investigated. This will be done to prevent any man obtaining his release through false representations.

The order from the War Department says: "The Secretary of War authorizes the discharge of all enlisted men of the National Guard who have families dependent upon them, members who would, while serving in Federal service, be entitled to the comforts provided by the act of Congress approved August 29, 1916, whether they desire to be discharged or not."

Though the act referred to includes only men who were married and employed on June 18, 1916, the order is taken to apply to all members of the Guard.

### HOW THE FISH JUMPS.

To understand how the fish makes his wonderful leap in the air one must understand his manner of extraordinary locomotion, and at the base of this lies structure. In general the fish body is irregularly spindle-shaped; the greatest bulk is toward one end—the head—and the back, or dorsal, side of the creature is broader and heavier than the under, or ventral, side. Thus the center of gravity in the body is toward the head and back. Two sets of fins are part of the swimming equipment, the caudal, dorsal and anal fins being vertical, while the pectoral and ventral pairs of fins are more or less horizontal. When it is added that the body is supplied with an air-sack to render it about the same weight, bulk for bulk, as water, and that the entire body is compact, muscular and springy, the machinery of locomotion is fairly complete.

The principle used in swimming is that of the oar used to scull a boat, or the paddle used similarly with a canoe, or that of the muskrat's flat tail, or the snake in motion either on land or in water. For the most part, the fish's propeller is his broad tail. The fins, and more especially the horizontal pairs (pectoral and ventral), have merely a balancing and steering function and chiefly the former. They serve to keep the end-heavy spindle from up-ending and also from turning wrong-side up, says the St. Nicholas. That is, a fish deprived of his pectoral and ventral fins would tend to stand on his head and also to turn over on his back. In short, the motive power comes from the strong, lithe tail and back part of the body, which is wagged from side to side, smiting with its flat plane, straightening out and shooting the body forward. But the fish has the oar entirely outclassed for the supple body takes the position of a reverse curve that, traveling in a wavering course, curving and recurving, allows the tail and also the dorsal and anal fins to strike the water flat and hard without the drag of the oar. Thus in his wriggling he slaps and pries himself onward; and because the water offers slight resistance to his pointed body, he progresses with marvelous ease and agility.



## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### BLOW ON JAW RESTORES VOICE.

Mike Liskas of New Castle, Pa., has every reason to be grateful to his cousin, John Liskas, and all on account of a terrific blow administered on his chin by the latter while boxing. Mike had been unable to speak above a whisper for a year, and had spent several hundred dollars attempting to regain his voice. The blow on the chin brought blood to the mouth of Mike, and John, the cousin, fearing he had seriously injured the former, was in the act of going for a doctor when, for the first time in a year, Mike called out, "You didn't hurt me, you only brought back my voice."

### GOLF BALL ACID KILLED BOY.

Acid from the center of a golf ball killed Stanley Newman, six years old, son of Archibald Newman of Villa Park, N. J. The boy was following his father over the links of the Spring Lake Golf and Country Club where the father is employed. He picked up an old golf ball. The outer cover was broken and the lad began to bite upon the inner material.

His teeth punctured this and the acid inside squirted into his mouth and down his throat. He was rushed to the Ann May Hospital at Spring Lake and was operated upon by Drs. Garrison and Strong, but died last evening. His throat, lungs, and stomach were badly burned.

### BIBLE IN LITERACY TEST.

Reading matter for a literacy test for aliens under the new Immigration Law will be taken from the Bible, the Department of Labor announce recently. Passages will be selected in more than 100 languages and dialects.

"This is not because the Bible is considered a sacred book by many people," said the department's announcement, "but because it is now the only book in virtually every tongue. Translations of the Bible were made by eminent scholars, what is more to the point, the translating was done by men whose purpose it was to put the Bible in such simple and idiomatic expressions in the various foreign languages as would make it possible for the common people of foreign countries to grasp the meaning readily and thoroughly."

### THE NARROW GAUGE OF THE JAPANESE RAILWAY.

When the railways of Japan were first planned, the narrow gauge of three feet six inches was selected for them, because it was cheapest to build and equip and was thought best suited to the coun-

try's narrow highways and steep grades. Now the 6,000 miles of Japanese railways, all of narrow gauge, are found to be sadly behind the times, says Popular Science Mechanics, and a movement is on foot to rebuild them to standard gauge, although the cost is estimated at nearly \$450,000,000. At present the trains are slow, the fastest expresses making less than thirty miles an hour, the coaches are low and narrow, and the sleeping cars are cramped and inconvenient, while most of the railway inventions of other nations cannot be used, because of the difference in track gauge and size of cars. The director of the imperial railways favors the change, in spite of the cost, and estimates that the main Tokaido line could be converted to broad gauge in twelve years and the other lines on the main island of Japan within twenty-five years. The tracks and stations would have to be rebuilt, tunnels widened, and new rolling stock provided; but, according to the government director, there would be little interruption of traffic. Many business men of the Empire oppose the change.

### A NEW RIFLE.

A new military rifle which seems possessed of considerable merit has been invented by R. G. Packard, Jr., of Brooklyn, N. Y., and many advantages over sporting and military guns now in use are claimed for it. The rifle has a bolt action similar to the army gun, but it does not require any safety device for locking to prevent accidental discharge. The gun has no trigger under the lock as is usual, but there is a thumb trigger on the upper side of the hand grip between two upwardly projecting sides at the breech, provided with grooves which form a base for an upper inverted U-shaped sliding trigger guard, which is attached to the rear end of the firing pin and moves with it. The peep sight is mounted on this upper sliding portion of the trigger guard. This peep sight, it is claimed, is a great advantage over those now in use. By shortening the distance between the comb and the butt plate and increasing the drop of the stock, the peep sight may be brought to within four inches of the eye, without danger of injury from recoil of the gun. This, it is claimed, gives greater length of range between sights, greater accuracy of aim, and a greater facility for quick sighting and firing. The use of the thumb trigger is intended to do away with the tendency to elevate or produce a side movement at the muzzle during the act of firing that is apt to occur in using the usual finger trigger. The rifle is a magazine arm and holds five cartridges. The thumb trigger is protected by walls in the breech mechanism to insure the safety of the gun from accidental discharge.



# PLUCK AND LUCK

NEW YORK, MAY 9, 1917.

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## Good Current News Articles

A Russian newspaper is now being published at Trebizond, in Armenia, one of the cities conquered by the Russians in their advance against the Turks last year.

The few firms of British dye manufacturers have made enormous profits since the beginning of the war. The report of one of them shows that the value of its shares has risen from \$2 to \$300. The value of the stock held by one stockholder who was declared bankrupt before the war, jumped to \$425,000. Before the war the stock was worth about \$3,500.

Nettles, considered useless weeds before the war, are now being collected in Germany in large quantities for textile purposes. A society for the use of nettle fibers has been formed, and has already collected 1,650 tons of dried nettle stalks in its main storerooms, in addition to collections in its branch establishments. All through Prussia local authorities are promoting the collection of nettles and establishing central stations. Interest in nettle gathering is also being manifested in other states of Germany.

Rigid censorship on the correspondence of men on the ships in the American navy has been put into effect. Only postal cards with printed sentences to be filled out are permitted. Everything else is eliminated. This censorship rule was revealed recently when one of the cards was received from one of the ships. It read merely, "I am quite well. I have received no letter from you lately." Other sentences which are printed on the cards, such as "I have been wounded" or "I am in the hospital," were scratched out.

During the Civil War one of the drummers, while the regiment was on the move, had a penchant for foraging on his own account, and the chickens had

to roost high to escape his far-reaching hands. Whenever night overtook them this drummer had a good supper provided for himself. On one occasion he had raked in a couple of turkeys and had put them into his drum for convenience in carrying. When the regiment was halted for the night, the colonel immediately ordered dress parade, and the drummers were expected to beat up. The forager made his drumsticks go, but the quick-eyed colonel noticed that he was not drumming. "Adjutant," said the colonel, "that man isn't drumming. Why ain't he drumming?" The adjutant stepped up to him, saying, "Why ain't you drumming?" "Because," said the quick-witted drummer, "I have got two turkeys in my drum, and one of 'em is for the colonel." The adjutant went back, and the colonel asked, "What is it?" "Why, he says he has got two turkeys in his drum, and one of 'em is for the colonel." Up to this point the conversation had been carried on in a low voice, but when the adjutant reported, the colonel raised his voice so that all could hear: "What! sick is he? Why didn't he say so to 'ore? Send him to his tent at once."

## Grins and Chuckles

The Englishman—I understand you Americans elect all your rulers by ballot. The American—Yes; all but our wives.

"I pay as I go," replied the pompous citizen. "Not while I'm running these apartments," declared the janitor. "You'll pay as you move in."

Mrs. Bacon—There is a new hygienic rolling-pin on the market, and they are said to be harmless. Mr. Bacon—I don't believe any rolling-pin harmless if used as a missile.

A washerwoman applied for help to a gentleman, who gave her a note to the manager of a certain club. It read as follows: "Dear Mr. X.: This woman wants washing." Very shortly afterward the answer came back: "Dear sir: I dare say she does, but I don't fancy the job."

"He shared his umbrella with her on a rainy day, and now they are married." "That's the way it goes," replied the cynic. "I have no doubt he started out merely with the idea of keeping her dry for a few minutes, and now he'll probably have to keep a roof over her head for the rest of his life."

Fortune Teller—You may, in time, make a good income, but you will never be rich. Young Man—Eh? Why not? "You are not saving. You are wasteful." "My! my! I'm afraid that is true. You have a wonderful grit. How did you know I was wasteful?" "You have just wasted a dollar getting your fortune told."



## INTERESTING ARTICLES

### CONVICTS' CHECK FOR \$104.

John G. Morrison, superintendent of the Convict Camp in Boulder Canyon, Colo., has deposited a check for \$104 to the credit of the men. It was given by a Boulder tungsten buyer and represents profits to the convicts from tungsten ores picked up while building a new road from Boulder to Nederland.

The men already have more than \$250 to their credit from this source. It will be placed on interest and each convict will be given his share upon the expiration of his term.

There are thirty men in the camp at the present time. Work is going on in the heart of the tungsten belt and each piece of rock is closely examined for the black metal.

### SHE COULDN'T WED.

Miss Georgia Mabel Ransom, of Los Angeles, Cal., refused to get married the other day, although the wedding ring was about to be slipped upon her finger. She appeared with Axel S. Broughton in Justice Summerfield's courtroom, and requested the marriage ceremony be performed.

Justice Summerfield was engaged temporarily. While the couple were awaiting him, the girl suddenly arose and exclaimed: "I won't do it, that's all. I simply can't," and rushed out of the courthouse building.

The intended bridegroom, with the marriage license in his hand, rushed after her. They were last seen walking along Temple street, he pleading and she protesting.

### U. S. WAR FACTORIES FOR WEST VIRGINIA.

The government's armor plate and projectile factories, for which Congress appropriated \$11,000,000 and \$1,700,000, respectively, will be built at Charleston, W. Va., a location recommended by a special navy board as offering an ideal combination of military safety and easy access to manufacturing materials.

In announcing the selection recently, Secretary Daniels said construction work would begin at once and would be hurried to completion. He also made public the report of the board which inspected facilities of twenty-nine cities chosen out of more than one hundred which offered sites. Charleston offered several acceptable sites free of cost to the government, and one of these will be selected for the factories themselves, while one of the protected gorges near by will be taken over as a proving field.

The investigating board, headed by Rear Admiral Fletcher, pointed out in its report that most of the sites suggested had to be rejected because of geographical location, offering inadequate security from

invasion in war time. The report says that the section about Pittsburgh, including the Upper Ohio Valley and West Virginia, soon was singled out as the most suitable.

Of the various districts about Pittsburgh, the report says: "The West Virginia district, from Cumberland, Md., to Ironton, Ohio, possesses more advantages than any of the others. Within this district Charleston, W. Va., and Cumberland, Md., are the most favorably located, in the order named.

"The West Virginia district has the great advantage of near access to some of the best coal mining regions in the United States. Pig iron markets are not far removed; oil and natural gas are available; water plants may be developed to a certain extent, although the cheap price of coal makes it possible for coal-fired power plants to compete with the hydraulic power."

### AMERICAN LEAGUE WILL CLOSE IF WAR DEMANDS.

Ban Johnson, president of the American League, said recently:

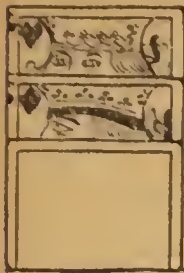
"Never in the history of the American League have our clubs been better prepared to start a championship race. Every manager in the league is supremely confident of the ability of his team to make a fight for the pennant.

"Recently Manager Connie Mack, of Philadelphia, informed me he firmly believes his club is capable of landing in the first division, at least. Mack is conservative in his predictions, and his enthusiasm forecasts a race in which every one of our eight clubs will be battling for championship honors. Last year seven of the eight clubs made a good fight for the pennant. It was believed that great race never could be equalled. Now it seems this season may see even a greater struggle—a blanket finish, in fact.

"War ought not to interrupt our schedule. Every American League club had an army officer drilling the players in the training camps this spring, and that drill will be continued all season. Permission has been secured from army headquarters to retain these officers throughout the year, and each club will be given its full quota of instructions every day. The fact that the government has consented to permit us to retain these instructors shows how highly the work is regarded in army circles.

"Military maneuvers will be a feature at all our opening games, and baseball fans will be surprised and thrilled to see how much progress the players have made in the South. These drills also will be held at all our games during the season. Of course, if the call for all of us comes, the American League will close its gates, and all of us will do our best for our country."





**TOKIO CARD TRICK.**  
You place five cards in a hat. Remove one of them and then ask your audience how many remain. Upon examination the remaining four have vanished. A very clever trick. Price 16c. by mail, postpaid, with directions.  
C. BEHR, 150 W. 62d Street, New York City.

**MARVELOUS MEMORY TRICK.**

No. 74	No. 46	No. 34	No. 83
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This amusing and interesting trick is performed with five cards containing 100 squares, which contain 100 different numbers. The performer can instantly name a series of six figures at a moment's notice by request of any spectator. The most marvelous feat of mind-reading ever invented. So easy that a child could perform the trick. Price 10c. by mail, postpaid, with directions.  
H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

**WILLARD-JOHNSON PRIZE-FIGHT PUZZLE.**



Four strips of cardboard, each three inches by one and a half inches, showing Willard and Johnson in various absurd postures. The solution in the puzzle lies in so arranging the strips that they show Willard in the complete picture, the heavy-weight champion. Price, 10c. by mail, postpaid, with directions.  
FRANK SMITH, 383 Lenox Ave., N. Y.

**THREE-CARD MONTE.**



Exceedingly mystifying. Although the ace, deuce and trey are shown plainly, it is utterly impossible for any one to pick out the ace. Price, 10c. by mail, postpaid, with directions.  
C. BEHR, 150 W. 62d St., New York City.

**TWO-CARD MONTE.**



This famous trick gets them all. You pick up a card and when you look at it you find you haven't got the card you thought you had. Price 10c. by mail, postpaid.  
WOLFF Novelty Co., 168 W. 23d St., N. Y.

**CHANGING CARD.**



One card is shown. The performer passes his hand over it and changes the card from a jack of spades to a seven of hearts. The second time he blows on the card and changes it to a queen of clubs. Quite easy to perform. Price 10c. by mail, postpaid, with directions.  
H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

**PAPEL BLANCO.**



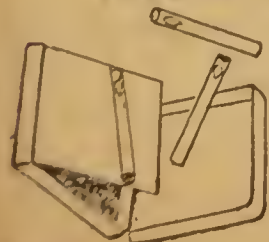
Four cards are placed in a hat. One card is removed and the balance are now shown to be changed to blank cards. The cards can be thoroughly examined. Price 10c. by mail, postpaid.  
H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

**NUT AND BOLT PUZZLE.**



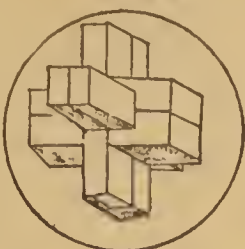
A very ingenious puzzle, consisting of a nut and bolt with a ring fastened on the shank, which cannot be removed unless the nut is removed. The question is how to remove the nut. Price, 15c. by mail, postpaid.  
FRANK SMITH, 383 Lenox Ave., N. Y.

**FLIPPING CIGARETTE BOX.**



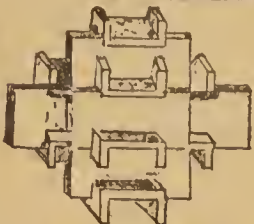
It looks like a box of Between the Acts cigarettes, but when you open it a spring sends the contents of the box flying up in the air. More fun than a circus. Price, 15c. by mail, postpaid.  
WOLFF NOVELTY CO., 168 W. 23d St., N. Y.

**MIKADO BLOCK PUZZLE.**



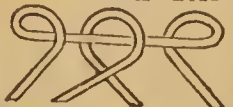
Imported from Japan. This neat little puzzle consists of six strangely cut pieces of white wood unassembled. The trick is to so assemble the blocks as to form a six-point cross. Price 12c. by mail, postpaid.  
H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

**JAPANESE BANK PUZZLE.**



Built up of a large number of grooved pieces of wood. Very difficult to take apart, and very difficult to put together. It can be so dissected as to make a bank of it and when re-assembled would defy the most ingenious bank burglar outside of prison. Price 35c. by mail, postpaid.  
FRANK SMITH, 383 Lenox Ave., N. Y.

**THE TANTALIZER PUZZLE.**



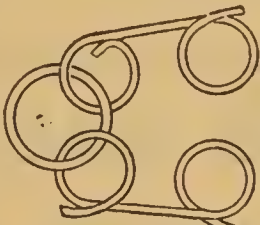
Consists of one horizontal and one perpendicular piece of highly polished metal bent in such a manner that when assembled it seems utterly impossible to get them apart, but by following the directions it is very easily accomplished. This one is a brain twister. Price 10c. by mail, postpaid, with directions.  
C. BEHR, 150 W. 62d St., New York City.

**THE QUESTION PUZZLE.**



Two links in the form of question marks, fastened together at the top. The object is to disengage one link from the other. It cannot be done without the directions. Price 10c. by mail, postpaid, with directions.  
WOLFF Novelty Co., 168 W. 23d St., N. Y.

**DEVIL'S LOCK PUZZLE.**



Without exception, this is the hardest one of all. And yet, if you have the directions you can very easily do it. It consists of a ring passed through two links on shafts. The shanks of this puzzle are always in the way. Get one and learn how to take the ring off. Price 15c. by mail, postpaid, with directions.  
H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

**THE WAR FOUNTAIN PEN.**



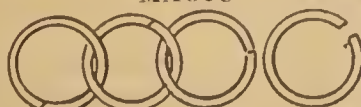
A very handsome fountain pen case to which is attached a pocket holder neatly made of metal and highly nickel-plated. When your friend desires the use of your pen and gets it, he is very much astonished when he removes the cap by the sudden and loud noise of the explosion that occurs, and yet a little paper cap does it all. Price, 35c. by mail, postpaid.  
FRANK SMITH, 383 Lenox Ave., N. Y.

**THE KAZOO.**



Made in the exact shape of a submarine. With this comical little instrument you can give a bride and groom one of the finest serenades they ever received. Or if you wish to use it as a ventriloquist, you will so completely change your voice that your best friend will not recognize it. Price, 12c. by mail, postpaid.  
WOLFF Novelty Co., 168 W. 23d St., N. Y.

**MAGIC LINK PUZZLE.**



A number of rings. The scheme is to link them together just exactly the same way magicians link their hoops. It looks dead easy. But we defy anybody to do it unless they know the secret. Price 10c. by mail, postpaid.  
WOLFF Novelty Co., 168 W. 23d St., N. Y.



2 to \$500 EACH paid for hundreds of old Coins. Keep ALL money dated before 1895 and send Ten cents for New Illustrated Coin Value Book, size 4x7. It may mean your Fortune. CLARKE COIN Co., Box 95, Le Roy, N. Y.

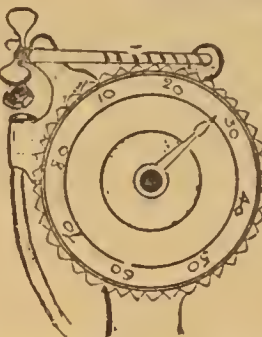
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Everywhere to ride and exhibit the new Ranger "Motorbike" completely equipped with electric light and horn, carrier, stand, tool tank, coaster-brake, mud guards and anti-skid tires. Choice of 44 other styles, colors and sizes in the famous "Ranger" line of bicycles. DELIVERED FREE on approval and 30 DAYS TRIAL. Send for big free catalog and particulars of our Factory-direct-to-Rider marvelous offers and terms. TIRES Lamps, Horns, Wheels, Sundries, and parts for all bicycles—at half usual prices. SEND NO MONEY but tell us exactly what you need. Do not buy until you get our prices, terms and the big FREE catalog. MEAD CYCLE COMPANY Dept. H 188 CHICAGO



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**THE LUNG TESTER.**



We have here one of the greatest little novelties ever produced. With this instrument you can absolutely test the strength of your lungs. It has an indicator which clearly shows you the number of pounds you can blow. Lots of fun testing your lungs. Get one and see what a good blower you are. Price 15c. by mail, postpaid.

C. BEHR, 150 W. 62d St., New York City.

**THE RUBBER DAGGER.**



On account of the war we have substituted this novelty for the Magic Dagger. It is eight inches in length, made to look exactly like a steel weapon and would deceive almost anybody at whom you might thrust it. But as the blade is made of rubber, it can do no injury. Price 15c. by mail, postpaid.  
H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre Street, Brooklyn, New York.

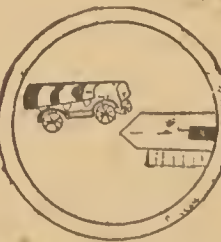
**CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S CIGARETTE.**



The simplest trick out. All you have to do is to get the cigarette into Charlie's mouth. Ah, ha! But can you do it? We doubt it. Anyhow, you might try. It's a safe bet your friends can't work it. The trick is a stationary head and a loose cigarette in a metal box all. Price 12c. by mail, with a glass top. If you don't get one you'll regret it, that's all. Price 12c. by mail, postpaid.

FRANK SMITH, 383 Lenox Ave., N. Y.

**JITNEY BUS GAME.**



A circular metal box with a glass top. Inside is a tiny garage fixed at one side and a loose traveling little Ford. It requires an expert to get the swiftly moving auto into the garage. This one grabs your interest, holds it, and almost makes you wild when you find after repeated trials how hard it is to do the trick. Price 12c. by mail, postpaid.  
WOLFF Novelty Co., 168 W. 23d St., N. Y.



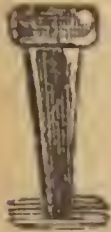
### LINK THE LINK PUZZLE.



The sensation of the day. Pronounced by all, the most baffling and scientific novelty out. Thousands have worked at it for hours without mastering it, still it can be done in two seconds by giving the links the proper twist, but unless you know how, the harder you twist them the tighter they grow. Price, 6c.; 3 for 15c.; one dozen, 50c., by mail, postpaid.

FRANK SMITH, 383 Lenox Ave., N. Y.

### THE JOKE SPIKE.



This joke spike is an ordinary iron spike or very large nail, the same as is found in any carpenter's nail box. At the small end is a small steel needle, 1/2 inch in length, firmly set in spike. Take your friend's hat or coat and hang it on the wall by driving (with a hammer) the spike through it into the wall; the needle in spike will not injure the hat or garment, neither will it show on wall or wood where it has been driven. The deception is perfect, as the spike appears to have been driven half-way through the hat or coat, which can be left hanging on the wall.

Price, 10 cents, or 3 for 25 cents; by mail, postpaid.

C. BEHR, 150 W. 62d Street, N. Y.

### RUBBER TACKS.



They come six in a box. A wonderful imitation of the real tack. Made of rubber. The box in which they come is the ordinary tack box. This is a great parlor entertainer and you can play a lot of tricks with the tacks. Place them in the palm of your hand, point upward. Then slap the other hand over the tacks and it will seem as if you are committing suicide. Or you can show the tacks and then put them in your mouth and chew them, making believe you have swallowed them. Your friends will think you are a magician. Then, again, you can exhibit the tacks and then quickly push one in your cheek or somebody else's cheek and they will shriek with fear. Absolutely harmless and a very practical and funny joke. Price, by mail, 10c. a box of six tacks; 3 for 25c.

WOLF Novelty Co., 168 W. 23d St., N. Y.

### GREAT BURGLAR PUZZLE.



The latest and most fascinating puzzle ever placed on the market. Patented May 30. It consists of four revolving dials, each dial containing 16 figures. 64 figures in all. To open the safe these dials must be turned around until the figures in each of the 16 columns added together total 40. The puzzle is made on the plan of the combination lock on the large iron safes that open on a combination of figures. Persons have been known to sit up all night, so interested have they become trying to get each column to total 40, in this fascinating puzzle. With the printed key which we send with each puzzle the figures can be set in a few minutes so as to total 40 in each column.

Price 15 cents; mailed, postpaid.

H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

### LUCKY PENNY POCKET PIECE.

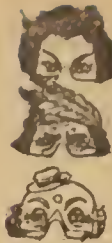


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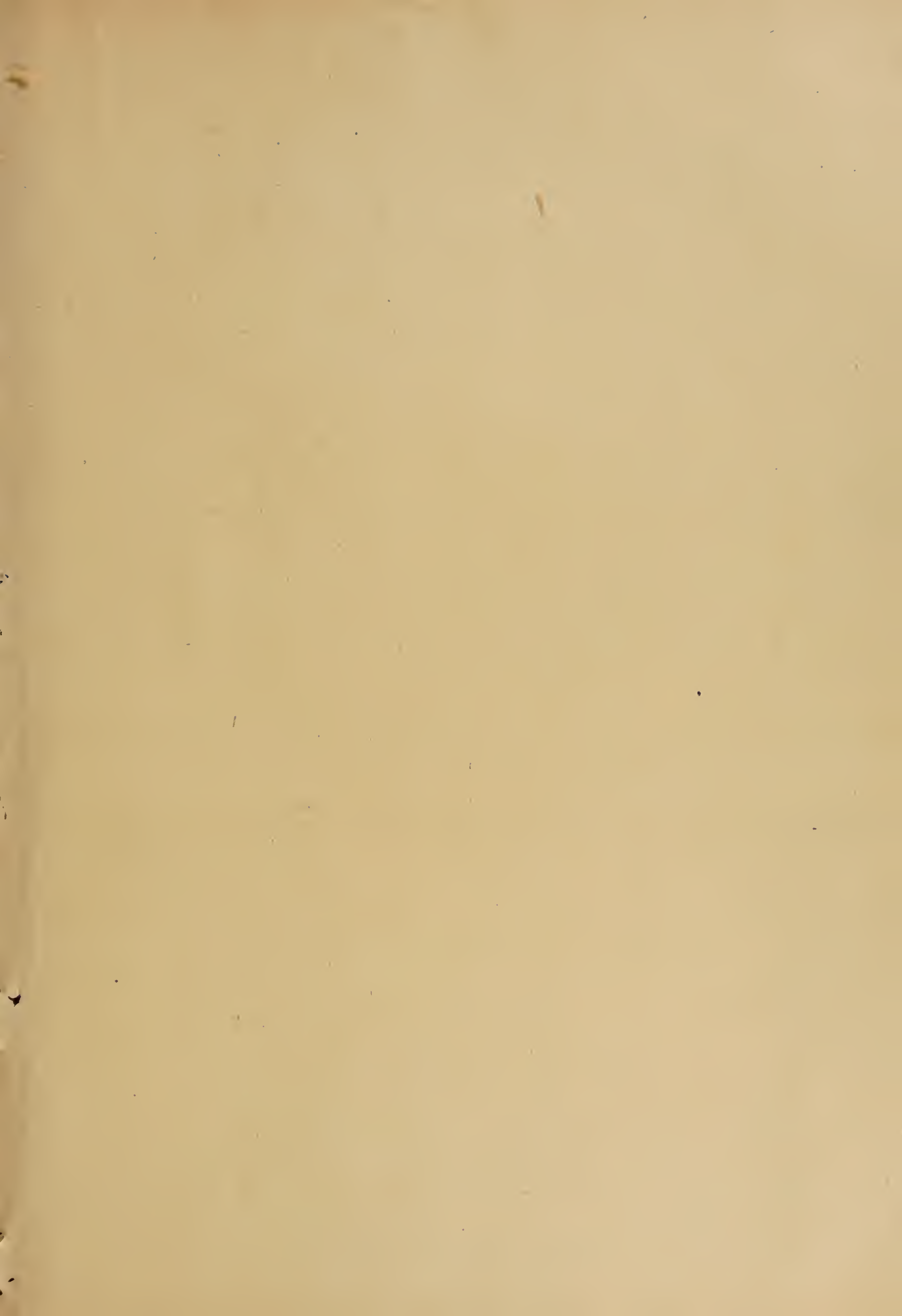
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